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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Cited on Kuwaiti Prisoners in Iraq

NC0601141793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 6 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that a number of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq will be released in the next few days. He said that a number of important matters will be discussed in "certain government circles" and their positive results will appear soon. He refused to divulge these matters in the interest of the negotiations.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's correspondent in Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners is difficult and complicated, and requires patience. He added that the Iraqi Government is eager to let the Arab League continue its endeavors and has asked Ambassador Idris to return to Baghdad to discuss the issue.

The Arab League secretary general went on to explain: The Iraqis refer to the Kuwaiti prisoners as missing persons. By this they mean that Iraq has no place where it is holding prisoners and missing persons. In their view, this means that they could look for them and some of them might have been sentenced in courts. These are the matters that will be discussed again during Rashid Idris' negotiations in Baghdad.

On the Arab League's role in resolving disputes between the Arab countries, especially border issues, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Arab League has proposed establishing an Arab court of justice whose jurisdiction will include resolving such border problems. He added that a charter for the proposed court exists but no approval has been given yet. [passage omitted]

The Arab League head refused to comment on the border dispute between Egypt and Sudan over Hala'ib, saying that he is now studying Sudan's request on this matter.

Regarding the Arab League's stand on Iranian threats to Arab regional security, particularly to Gulf regional security, Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid said that the Arab League has declared its solidarity with the United Arab Emirates and its support for its sovereignty over the three islands seized by Iran and called on Iran to withdraw from them. He added that the Arab countries are eager to improve their relations with Iran because it is a neighboring Muslim country and because improved relations are in everyone's best interest; to allow all the countries in the region to live in peace and harmony. He added: But no Arab country accepts Iran's interference in its internal affairs and Iran does not accept any interference from any other country in its internal affairs either. He expressed hope that understanding between the Arab countries and Iran will replace the confrontation, escalation, and tension.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that there is coordination now between the Arab countries to keep the region out of the nuclear conflict and to sign the treaty on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction on condition that Israel and other Middle East countries sign it too. He added: It is not reasonable for the Arab countries to commit themselves to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction while Israel continues to refuse to join this treaty. He voiced hope that matters on this issue will become clearer in the next few days. [passage omitted]

All Arab Countries To Attend Meeting on Deportees

NC0601214293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] An official Arab League source said today that all the Arab countries have agreed to attend a Arab foreign ministers meeting at Arab League headquarters next Monday [11 January]. The meeting is being held in response to a call by the state of Palestine to discuss the Arab position versus Israel's decision to deport Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories.

Ministers Discuss Struggle Against Terrorism

LD0701113193 Algiers APS in English 1019 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 7 (APS)—For the first time, the Arab countries decided to consult each other in order to put an end to the development of terrorism which under the cover of a hard and harsh Islam is gangrenating everyday the Arab world. If this phenomenon has witnessed greater proportions in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia particularly, it is also true that the rest of Arab countries has not been and will not be secure from terrorist acts, security specialists consider.

The Arab interior ministers seized the opportunity of the works of the 10th ordinary session which is held in Tunis, to better examine all aspects of terrorism and mainly reach a common strategy to unify and reinforce their struggle against this phenomenon. The Algerian minister of interior and local collectivities, Mohamed Hardi, posed, during his intervention before his Arab counterparts, the essential question linked to the approach of this phenomenon. "Are some Arab countries only or Arab countries in general which are aimed by terrorism?", he wondered.

In fact, it is expected from all Arab and/or Moslem countries to express themselves as accusations towards a country or another have been multiplied without precisely exactly at what level could be situated the influence and even the aid granted to terrorist networks. The recent Egypto-Sudanese, Tuniso-Sudanese and Algero-Iranian "disagreements" are part of this general atmosphere on which it is imperative to shed light in order that positions of all sides be clearly defined.

In the same frame of the struggle against terrorism, the Arab ministers taking part in this session are also expected to tackle the not less important questions related to the security of borders, the flow of persons and goods and the struggle against drugs. The examination of these questions which are strongly imbricated [as received] must lead, as the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in a message to participants in this meeting, to "a preventive action that immunizes society and conceives means to counter the phenomenon of religious extremism which constitutes a serious threat for the Arab-Moslem stability".

Without making a hasty judgment on the results that will be reached by the meeting of Tunis, it is true that the Arab leaders are fully aware of the gravity of the situation. In the continuation of the meeting of interior ministers, Cairo will host starting from Jan. 19 a conference on "the struggle against religious extremism". Religious affairs ministers of Moslem countries and representatives of the Moslem minorities throughout the world have been invited to this meeting. The objective is to "define a common action which will inform the world on the true visage of tolerance and moderation of Islam and to examine the incidences of religious extremism on the future of the Islamic nation", the Egyptian minister of religious affairs, Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, said. From Tunis to Cairo, the action of the Arab political powers is aimed at taking seriously in charge terrorism and extremism. The fact that the Arab ministers meet on the same table to examine without complaisance the means to be implemented to annihilate terrorist acts under the cover of extremism, is in itself a first step that deserves a sustained attention, the observers note. The stake is important as it implies the community of destiny of the Arab nation even if some regimes have not yet clarified their positions before such "plagues".

GCC Rejects Entreaty on Damascus Declaration

NC0601205593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] All recent efforts by the Egyptian Government with the Gulf states to convince the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries to work on reviving the security and military framework of the Damascus Declaration have failed. In their recent meeting in Abu-Dhabi last week, the leaders of the GCC countries decided not to discuss this subject, despite statements by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said the Damascus Declaration is on its deathbed. He was attempting to pressure the Gulf states to review their stands rejecting the principle of military and security cooperation with Egypt and Syria.

Political circles say that Gulf leaders expressed their fears that neighboring countries, Iran and Iraq, might view the security arrangements as a military alliance the objective of which is to hurt their interests. Political circles described these fears as an unsuccessful attempt to justify the Gulf stand rejecting cooperation with Egypt and Syria, noting the speed with which the Gulf states signed cooperation agreements with Western countries, primarily the United States, after the Gulf war, which confirms that their claims are false.

Islamic Affairs

Official Condemns Destruction of Indian Mosque

LD0501195393 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Statement issued by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin Baz, chairman general of the Muslim World League and chairman general of the Directorates of Scientific Research, Fatwa, Propagation and Guidance, on the destruction of the Babri mosque—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] International and Islamic news agencies have reported on the abominable incident and hideous crime, directed against Islam and Muslims and their sanctuaries, which took place in the Indian city of Ayodhya. This was the destruction of the Babri mosque by a group of Hindus.

Ever since we heard this hurtful news, this shameful behavior and this wicked criminal act, we have condemned this abominable incident. We strongly denounce and condemn it and we consider that the attack on and destruction of the Babri mosque is, by all criteria, a major crime. It is an offense against Islam and Muslims and their Islamic sanctuaries.

The Indian Government is called upon to punish those who perpetrated this painful disaster, to rebuild the mosque, and to prevent such vile crimes by Hindus, which are directed against Islam and its followers and sanctuaries. If the Indian Government does not intervene in such cases by meting out severe penalties, it is not unlikely that extremist Hindus would commit more criminal acts against Muslims and their mosques in India, especially in view of the determination of Hindu fanatics to cause such demagogic chaos and to destroy the Babri Mosque before the eyes and ears of the Indian Government.

The Indian Government is further called upon to respect Islam and its followers in India, provide a suitable environment for Muslims, respect their sanctuaries, and defend them with full force and care against any harm by extremists. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Justifies Not Withdrawing From Talks

PM0701112593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 4-10 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: " 'Arafat Tells Hamas: For These Reasons, Palestinians Will Not Withdraw From Peace Negotiations"]

[Excerpts] High-ranking Palestinian sources have revealed to AL-WASAT that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) delegation with which he met in Tunis that the Palestinian leadership will not abandon the peace process with Israel, despite the Yitzhaq Rabin government's decision to deport 415 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to Lebanon, for three reasons:

1. The decision for Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations was taken at the Palestine National Council [PNC], and no one is entitled to make a decision in this connection except the PNC. Besides, the Palestinians' withdrawal from the negotiations is not in the Palestinian people's interests.

2. The Palestinian leadership's and the PLO's suspension of participation in the peace process would weaken the Palestinian cause and lose the Palestinian deportees international sympathy and support.

3. The Palestinian delegation's withdrawal from the peace process would not be easy, because the decision would represent a challenge to the international community, which blessed and supported these negotiations and continues to do so. And that would reflect negatively on the Palestinian people. The existence of a unified Palestinian position supporting the Palestinian negotiating delegation is better than a pullout.

This frankness was evinced at the meetings which Yasir 'Arafat held with a Hamas delegation in Tunis at end of last month. The delegation included Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas; Muhammad Nazzal, the movement's representative in Jordan; 'Imad al-'Alami, the movement's representative in Tehran; and Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the movement's Political Bureau. The Hamas delegation participated—for the first time since the peace process started 14 months ago—in expanded Palestinian meetings in Tunis to follow up the deportees issue. The meetings were attended—beside 'Arafat—by members of the PLO Executive Committee, the PNC speaker's office, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (led by George Habash), and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

This frankness came in response to the Hamas delegation's demand to Palestinian president 'Arafat to withdraw from the process in protest at the Palestinians' deportation. And because these negotiations have not produced any tangible results until now. And when the Hamas delegation raised the issue of escalating armed struggle by the PLO leadership, Abu-al-Lutf [PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi] said that "the PLO adopted that line a long time before Hamas, and there are factors and conditions that do not allow talking openly about the PLO's orientations in such issues." [passage omitted]

In 'Arafat's meetings with the Hamas delegation, AL-WASAT has learned that the Palestinian president considered Hamas "faction number two on the Palestinian scene after Fatah." He offered the movement PNC membership and the opportunity to have 18 seats in it. The delegation turned this offer down but welcomed participation "in restructuring PLO organs and institutions."

A prominent Palestinian lawyer who participated in the Tunis meetings has told AL-WASAT that Hamas is considering encouraging the deportees to submit separate requests to return to their land. But 'Arafat warned the movement against this step because it could lead to easing international pressures on Israel. And because such an approach could lead to the return of 120 deportees only, thus enabling Israel to abandon responsibility for the other deportees.

Muhammad Nazzal acknowledged that the "psychological barrier" that existed between Hamas and the PLO has now fallen. And he emphasized that the dialogue will continue between the two sides despite the existence of differences. He also said that Hamas set several conditions for the possibility of its joining the PLO. Among them is "reexamining its political and organizational structure." He added that "we are willing to be a force in the PLO, but we refuse to allow our joining of it to be used as a cover to continue the negotiations with Israel."

Khartoum is expected next month to witness meetings at the leadership level between Fatah and Hamas to broaden the level of coordination between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Egypt Reportedly Mediating in Deportees Issue

JN0701103993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Jan 93 p 17

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Amman—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, yesterday left Amman for Cairo. Official Palestinian sources have told AL-RA'Y that 'Abd-Rabbuh was hastily summoned by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, currently on visit to Cairo.

The sources asserted that 'Abd-Rabbuh was hastily summoned to Cairo not only for inter-Palestinian consultations over the Arab foreigner ministers meeting, scheduled to convene in Cairo on Monday, 11 January, but also to discuss Egyptian mediation in the issue of Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon.

The sources said that Cairo is interested in seeing a successful end to the first full Arab foreign ministers meeting to convene in Cairo after the Gulf war. To ensure this success, the sources said, the Egyptians will have to propose a solution to the Palestinian deportees issue at the meeting. The sources also asserted that Cairo will propose to the Palestinians, the Israelis, and the Lebanese a mechanism on which they can agree to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

The sources reported that the Egyptian mediation is in two parts, the first concerns implementing Security Council Resolution 799, and the second links the forthcoming Arab-Israeli talks in Washington to the issue of deportees.

The sources pointed out that the Egyptians would not be able to mediate unless there are signs of a possible solution, which, are apparently there and enjoy U.S. and European support. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Discusses Deportees, Israel, Talks

NC0701075293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, in Jerusalem, by correspondent Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Faysal al-Husayni, welcome.

[Al-Husayni] Welcome to you.

[Al-Jundi] Let's begin with the Palestinian deportees. UN reports assert that there are efforts to adopt measures to punish Israel if it fails to comply with Resolution 799. As Palestinians living within the occupied territories, how do you view this question?

[Al-Husayni] I believe this step is very important. Rabin must understand that this world was not created just for him or for Israel. There are laws and rules to be respected and observed, and there is an authority to be considered. Unless such practical and clear steps are taken, I believe the Middle East will be transformed into a jungle.

[Al-Jundi] What do you mean by clear and practical steps?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the UN Security Council resolution must have the power to dictate certain steps, starting with certain sanctions and culminating in measures to force Israel to implement resolutions, even through the use of force.

[Al-Jundi] Does this mean you demand implementation of Article 7 of the UN Charter?

[Al-Husayni] Exactly.

[Al-Jundi] Are you making efforts and holding contacts with the UN Security Council member states, specifically the permanent members, to reach such a resolution?

[Al-Husayni] The PLO envoy in New York is undertaking these contacts. We make contact with the parties we can reach.

[Al-Jundi] To what extent do you coordinate with the PLO leaders in tackling the Palestinian deportees' issue?

[Al-Husayni] Just like any state's different bodies, we maintain the same level of action, interaction, cohesion, and coordination that has always existed between us.

[Al-Jundi] UN envoy James Jonah failed to persuade Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799. Jonah met you and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi. What did you feel during that meeting? Can we say the mission of the new envoy who will arrive within days will achieve the same result Jonah did?

[Al-Husayni] The issue depends on the UN Security Council action. If the major states have the will to prompt the UN Security Council to act, I believe the mission will succeed. If this will is lacking, the new envoy will find himself up against the same as his predecessor.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that will exists now that the international community, including the United States, condemns and denounces the Israeli measure?

[Al-Husayni] All I can say is that this will is necessary. Whether or not it exists, let us wait until the mission ends.

[Al-Jundi] A few days ago, Yitzhaq Rabin made the return of the deportees contingent on stopping the intifadah. How do you view this equation?

[Al-Husayni] All Rabin is saying is that he is keeping 415 Palestinians hostage in south Lebanon. He wants to use them as a card to stop the intifadah. This is categorically rejected, and we are not prepared to discuss it.

[Al-Jundi] Will you specify the intifadah's objectives in this regard?

[Al-Husayni] The intifadah seeks to end the occupation, rebuild the Palestinian society destroyed in the past few years, establish a just and comprehensive peace, and reach a Palestinian-Israeli agreement that can pave the way for a new Middle East society based on comprehensive peace in the region. We seek regional cooperation in the Middle East and believe the only way to do this is to establish the Palestinian state and end the occupation.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that escalating the intifadah can represent major pressure on Rabin to return the deportees?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know, but Rabin's conduct creates pressure that escalates the intifadah.

[Al-Jundi] There is a pressing question that comes to mind as we talk now. The Palestinian leaders in the territories can play a crucial role in tackling the Palestinian problem, in general, and the deportees issue, in particular. For instance, you can make contacts with Israeli leaders in the territories to influence the Israeli public. Are there efforts to this end?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, such efforts are made whenever possible.

[Al-Jundi] Can you tell us about some of these efforts?

[Al-Husayni] We hold meetings with parties in the government, like the Meretz group. We also hold good contacts with the Labor party groups we know and very positive contacts with the Peace Now movement. There are the inter-Palestinian contacts.

[Al-Jundi] Some Arab parties are involved in the ruling Israeli coalition. Can these parties propose withdrawing confidence from the Rabin government in response to pressure from Palestinian leaders in the territories?

[Al-Husayni] The issue does not need pressure from us. They are part of the Palestinian people. They are better acquainted with the nature and paths of Israeli internal policy. We do not pressure them but ask them to do what they can to return the deportees.

[Al-Jundi] Have you made efforts in this direction?

[Al-Husayni] There are constant contacts and clear coordination between us.

[Al-Jundi] Faysal al-Husayni, thank you.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

'Categorically' Rejects Proposal

NC0601141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, has stated that the Palestinians categorically reject Rabin's proposal to let the deportees go back in return for stopping the Intifadah.

In statements to the Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR due out on Friday 8 January, al-Husayni said the intifadah came to oppose the indiscriminate measures of the occupying Israeli forces.

Al-Husayni expressed his support for the Lebanese stand on the deportees and described it as sound, correct, and principled.

He said that if the Israeli Government changes its treatment of the Palestinians, the intifadah might take a completely different course that serves the new resolutions.

Hamas' Ghawshah on Deportees, Peace Talks

PM0601111993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, Islamic Resistance Movement representative in Jordan, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] In the light of the memorandum which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] submitted at the Palestinian leadership meetings, can it be said that the movement has abandoned its previous conditions for joining PLO institutions? (The 40 percent proportion heads the list of conditions).

[Ghawshah] When Hamas submitted its memorandum to the Palestinian leadership, it raised issues which match the phase the Palestinian people are going through. And the memorandum is fully consistent with its political view, whether of withdrawing from the negotiations; supporting the deportees' position until their return to their homes in Palestine; escalating the armed struggle and the intifadah; or holding a comprehensive national dialogue after withdrawing from the negotiations on the basis of national unity and adherence to the Palestinian people's fixed principles; and organizing the Palestinian home on the basis of democratic foundations—which are all in line with its previous positions and do not conflict with the conditions for holding free and impartial elections to elect the Palestine National Council or for determining proportions of representation for the influential forces according to their influence on the ground. And of course, Hamas' influence has exceeded 40 percent among the Palestinian people.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Would the PLO's withdrawal from the negotiations mean Hamas' joining of PLO institutions, especially as the other three conditions are fulfilled and there is no disagreement over them, that is, "escalating the intifadah, returning the deportees, and armed struggle?"

[Ghawshah] The PLO's withdrawal from the negotiations is a necessary condition but is not the only condition for Hamas' joining of the PLO. And Hamas' view remains the same as I clarified earlier. And of course, there are four points, in addition to the comprehensive national dialogue. And they require a profound dialogue. And of course, there are also the various interpretations of Hamas and the PLO. For example, does the PLO agree to the following:

— Adopting armed struggle and announcing this so that the Palestinian people would rally around it?!!

— Escalating the intifadah and considering it a jihad element, and not just a card for exerting pressure?

— Holding a comprehensive national dialogue for all the Palestinian forces, provided that it produces binding results, that is, after withdrawing from the negotiations?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Will the issue of Hamas' joining of the PLO be raised at the upcoming Khartoum meetings between Hamas and Fatah?

[Ghawshah] If the regulator of the Tunis meeting was the political issues which are urgent and pressing for all the Palestinian forces, the regulator of the Khartoum meeting is the field and internal issues which are also urgent and pressing for Palestinian people's national unity under the occupation's yoke.

As for Hamas' joining of the PLO, it is, in our view, a premature proposal. Tangible strides should be made in the political and field issues before addressing this issue.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the real reasons which prompted you to participate in the Palestinian leadership meetings at such a scale for the first time?

[Ghawshah] First, the nature of the historic turning point which the Palestinian people are going through in the face of the transfer [al-transfir] conspiracy of "Zionist deportation."

Second, the need to close internal ranks and surmount all secondary contradictions in the face of the Zionist enemy's united ranks, which include the left, center, and right.

Third, to help the PLO to extricate itself from the negotiations dilemma in which it has found itself—after 14 months—unable to provide any achievements for the Palestinian people, and to work earnestly to withdraw from the negotiations.

Fourth, to mobilize the PLO's material, political, and informational capabilities to bolster the steadfastness of the deported mujahidin to secure their return to their homes, and to bolster the Palestinian people's unity, especially inside [the occupied territories].

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] With regard to the deportees issue, have the Palestinian people paid a heavy price for the murder of the Zionist sergeant?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian people have for over 70 years been paying a heavy price as a result of the Zionists' invasion of the land of the al-isra' wa al-mi'raj [the prophet's midnight journey to the seven heavens]. The price has also been paid by the 415 deportees. It is a sacrifice for their Arab and Islamic nation. "If a wound hath touched you, be sure a similar wound hath touched the others." [Koranic verse] Perhaps the issue of the deportees—and they are the elite of the Palestinian people—is a divine preordainment to reactivate the Palestinian issue before the world day and night by this absolute return, as though it is going to lash Yitzhaq Rabin around the clock to expose his true Zionist and criminal face, just as it has removed his deceptive, tender, peace-loving mask, exposing his true face which is far from anything that is moral and humane.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] If Hamas knew the scale of the price paid beforehand, would it have embarked on such a qualitative operation?

[Ghawshah] The answer to that question comes in the context of the answer to another question: Will Hamas continue its jihad operations against the occupation soldiers?

Yes, Hamas will continue the jihad path. It will also continue the path of sacrifices. In doing so it turns to God and says: Oh God, I have conveyed the message, so be my witness.

Hamas Expected To Ease Rhetoric Against Talks

PM0401145193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Dec 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Extensive Moves To Unite Palestinian Ranks"]

[Text] Cairo, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the beginning of 1993 will witness the complete unification of all the Palestinian factions in order to tackle the challenges and burdens of the next phase of seeking to recover the Palestinian people's legitimate rights from the Israeli occupation.

The sources pointed out that Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] participation in the Palestinian leaderships' recent meetings in Tunis has positively affected the steps to integrate the ranks of Palestinian factions. The sources revealed that Palestinian and Arab contacts will be conducted in the coming days to secure the participation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Nayif Hawatimah in order to reinforce the Palestinian people's capabilities against the Israeli occupation.

The sources ruled out the Palestinian delegation's withdrawal from the peace negotiations, especially after the successes the Palestinians have achieved in exposing Israel's true face and inhumane repressive practices against the Palestinian people and the condemnation by the international community, including the United States, of the Yitzhaq Rabin government's recent decision to deport 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The Palestinian scene and Arab scene in general are witnessing extensive moves regarding the integration of the Palestinian factions' ranks. While Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, returned to the Jordanian capital, Amman, from the Tunisian capital after the conclusion of the Palestinian leaderships' meetings there, Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, headed for the Syrian capital, Damascus.

It has been learned that the 10 Palestinian factions are currently holding a series of meetings and consultations among their representatives to assess the results reached with the Palestinian leadership in the light of the outcome of the results of the expanded Palestinian meetings held in Tunis recently. As is known, over half of the 10 factions did not participate in the Tunis meetings—which requires that the factions which participated in the meetings, like Hamas and the Popular Democratic [as published], submit their own assessments of these meetings' results in order to crystallize a unified position for the factions which signed the Damascus agreement, in which they declared their opposition to the peace process and demanded that the Palestinian delegation withdraw from the Washington negotiations.

Palestinian sources in Jordan expect Hamas to ease its hard-line rhetoric vis-a-vis the peace negotiations at the next stage, as it has obtained assurances from the Palestinian leadership that the negotiating Palestinian delegation would not travel before the Palestinian deportees' return to their land.

A statement made by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, is cited in this connection. He said earlier: "I will not travel to Washington, even if the leadership orders me to do so." Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was commenting on his position on the deportees issue. He emphasized that the peace negotiations would not be resumed except after their return to their homes. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's statements were described at the time as reflecting the Palestinian leadership's position on this issue.

Paper Views Fatah-Hamas Talks in Khartoum

TA0501174793 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 5 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Fatah-Hamas Talks"]

[Text] The statements made by some participants at the ongoing talks [as published] in Khartoum between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] affirm a great possibility that has become available for Hamas to join the PLO, sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people everywhere, inside or outside the occupied territories.

Naturally, this does not mean an end to the disagreements between these two factions but it necessarily means—as Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has said—that the democratic framework on which the PLO is based can absorb all differences. Therefore, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that Hamas has the right to demand what it deems appropriate for it within the context of joining the PLO. All of this, however, will depend first and foremost on an ongoing positive and national dialogue and on agreement about the rights of all factions without exception.

A responsible and intensive dialogue, aware with adequate seriousness of all the stage's changes and developments, is definitely the only illuminated way toward Palestinian national unity within the PLO's framework—a firm, strong, and active unity for making a national and independent Palestinian decision and for protecting and implementing this decision under any circumstances.

The growing hope is that these talks will continue successfully to confront the blow of collective deportation. This blow was intended by Rabin's government to split the entire Palestinian ranks, in addition to being a serious obstacle and stumbling block on the road to peace.

The anticipated success of these talks will immediately add new impetus to national unity, will undoubtedly reflect the failure of the deportation blow's aims, will enhance the unified Palestinian stance on the inevitable return of the deportees, and will provide a unified Palestinian national capability to wage the battle of peace with deep confidence and true credibility.

Algeria

Better Relations With U.S. Expected With Clinton

LD0601145793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The cable U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton sent in reply to the letter of congratulations from Higher State Council Chairman following his victory in the presidential elections, is a signal for the beginning of a positive development of relations.

Bill Clinton considers that working with the Algerian leadership will realize joint objectives, especially as the world is on the threshold of a new stage after the end of the cold war.

Four days before receiving this letter, Mr. Ali Kafi had received the U.S. ambassador in Algeria, and she in turn praised the good relations between Algeria and Washington, and recalled the depth of these relations since the time of Benjamin Franklin, the first President of the United States after its independence in 1776. [as heard] Algeria was the first country to recognize this independence. [as heard]

In addition to these historic ties, the Bill Clinton administration will include political personalities known for their support to Algeria, including the new head of diplomacy, Warren Christopher, who respects Algeria for the role it played in the release of the U.S. hostages in Tehran in 1981.

In this respect, we record that U.S. Democrats who have at various times held posts of responsibility in the United States have generally harbored a particular respect for Algeria. This shows in their support for Algeria during its struggle to recover its independence and sovereignty.

These relations were strengthened during the presidency of the late President Houari Boumediene, when Belaid Abdessalam, our present prime minister, served as minister for industries and hydrocarbons. The latter worked to revive these relations, and this encouraged U.S. oil companies to deal with Algeria. The El Paso agreement is the best evidence to this. Thus far, the Belaid Abdessalam government has signed seven agreements with U.S. oil companies in the domain of exploration.

Mr. Belaid Abdessalam recently stressed that relations between the two countries have always been marked with understanding, despite some political disagreements resulting from certain regional hotbeds of tension.

HCE Will Announce 'Political Perspectives'

LD0601135293 Algiers APS in English 1133 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 6 (APS)—The Higher State Committee (HCE) announced that the political perspectives for the country will be precized [as received] on January 14, the first anniversary of its constitution. Without making a hasty judgment on the practical measures to implement these perspectives, the observers note that they will concern the consolidation of the struggle against terrorism, the safeguard of the republican frame of the state and the reactivation of the action of the government aimed at relaunching the economy and working for a greater social justice. The political parties, at least those who more or less have a weight on the political scene, formulated proposals which are likely, according to them, to solve the "political and socio-economic crisis" the country is facing.

The National Liberation Front (FLN) party proposed in a memorandum handed to the HCE on November 28 a "transitional" period whose duration it did not precize and during which the HCE will continue to exercise its functions beside a neutral government. At the end of this period, presidential or legislative elections will be organized. This interim phase will be managed in the frame of the constitution of February 1989 that can be amended later, the FLN pointed out. This proposal marks an evolution in the position of this party which demanded after the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid on January 11, 1992 , the mere resumption of the electoral process. Moreover, the FLN called for a "global dialogue" (power and opposition) in the frame of which will be debated all the important questions interesting Algeria and that may lead to a "national consensus".

The point of view of the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS) on ways to get out of the crisis, is included in a memorandum issued on 29 September 1992. For this party, the eradication of terrorism lies in a "democratic management of the transition" associating the opposition. For the materialization of this project, the FFS proposes a "national conference for the monitoring of the transition" which will be constituted in equal parts by representatives of the power and representatives from representative political parties and social forces. A review of the FLN and FFS proposals shows a number of points of convergence of these parties mainly concerning the association of the opposition in the management of the transitional phase and the character of "neutrality" of the government.

The vision of the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD) of Dr Said Saadi, on political prospects that are offered to the country differ from the proposals formulated by the FLN and the FFS. In a platform for a "republican Algeria", the RCD considers that the solution to the crisis "does not lie in the resumption of the electoral process" as the point today is "to preserve the very existence of the republican frame that enables

alternance". The RCD also said it is convinced that for the majority of patriots, it is more important to give to our country a "credible power rather than a power that has been legitimized by elections".

Among the parties of the Islamist tendency, the Movement of Islamist Society (HAMAS) considers that dialogue must lead to "definite settlement of the question of legitimacy" and the necessity to find solutions to the economic problems far from the formulae already experimented and which led the country to ruin". The al-Nahdah movement considers that "dialogue will only be national if the Islamic tendency takes part in it".

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Answers Sudanese Charges

NC0601104293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—MENA has obtained the text of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's response to the message Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul addressed to the UN Security Council on what the Sudanese Government describes as the measures taken by the Egyptian Government in the Egyptian-Sudanese border area. The text of the message follows:

Mr. Chairman: With reference to the letter addressed to you by the Sudanese foreign minister on 27 December 1992, which involved a number of allegations that infringe on Egypt's sovereignty on its territories, I would like first of all to reiterate Egypt's eagerness, both at the governmental and popular levels, to preserve the historic relations linking the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples and to ensure that solutions for any arising problem or dispute will maintain these relations and ties within the framework of safeguarded rights in accordance with the existing agreements and on the basis of respect for the commitments resulting from these undertakings.

However, the Sudanese Government recently has started to raise a number of problems for nonobjective purposes that contradict the nature of relations linking the two fraternal people, who I can describe as almost one people. The approach adopted by the Sudanese Government can be interpreted as an exploitation that goes beyond the acceptable level of respect for the feelings of fraternity and friendship Egyptians harbor toward the fraternal Sudanese people.

The memorandum addressed to you by the Sudanese foreign minister on 27 December 1992 refers to what it describes as certain measures in the Egyptian-Sudanese border area. In the end, the memorandum requests that the UN Security Council members be notified of these developments, which it describes as a threat to the security and safety of the region, and calls on the chairman to make efforts to restore conditions to what they were.

In this context, and to put things straight, I would like to present to you the following facts:

First, the accord signed on 19 January 1899 between the Egyptian and British Governments, in their capacity as the two parties in charge of the joint rule of Sudan, in its first article clearly specifies the northern Sudanese border with Egypt in the following words: The word "Sudan" applies in this accord to all the territory situated to the south of the 22d parallel.

The accord was signed by the representatives of the Egyptian and British Governments at the time and has remained the sole international document specifying the borders between Egypt and Sudan. None of the provisions of that accord have been amended, apart from the complementary agreement signed by the representatives of the Egyptian and British Governments on 10 July 1899 on the status of Sawakin Port.

Second, on 26 March 1899 and on 4 November 1902, the Egyptian interior minister issued two ministerial decrees placing some of the areas situated within the Egyptian borders north of the 22d parallel under Sudanese administration and some areas situated within the Sudanese borders south of the 22d parallel under Egyptian administration for humanitarian reasons concerning the tribes living on the two sides of the border, without infringement on that line or its status. The interior minister pointed out that the goal was to specify the areas in which the Egyptian and Sudanese nomads lived for administrative purposes. This shows the temporary administrative nature of these arrangements. Moreover, the person who issued the decrees and the person entrusted with their implementation—the Aswan director—were both employees of the Egyptian Government at the time.

Later, in 1907, an Egyptian amendment to the interior minister's decree was issued, ending the Sudanese administration of some of the territories included in the interior minister's decree of 1902. The amendment was actually implemented.

Third, Egypt has not ceased to exercise its sovereignty over the administrative area situated to the north of the 22d parallel since the signing of the 1899 accord. This has been demonstrated in many ways; primarily:

1. The Egyptian security and administrative presence in the region in all its forms;

2. Egypt's responsibility for making decisions pertaining to mining by both Egyptian and Sudanese companies, in addition to the continued Egyptian mining activity in the region since 1915 and its establishment of a nature preserve to protect natural life in the region; and,

3. Official Egyptian maps, from the time the accord was signed up to the present, have shown its international borders as represented by the area north of the 22d parallel.

Fourth, when Sudan raised the first Egyptian-Sudanese border crisis in 1958, Egypt agreed, out of its eagerness to safeguard relations between the two fraternal people, to defer discussion of the problem until the circumstances in fraternal Sudan allowed for it, taking into consideration the Sudanese Government's pledge not to involve the Sudanese inhabitants of the region in the 1958 Sudanese elections. Egypt did that to prove its sovereignty over the region. Contrary to the Sudanese foreign minister's message, Egypt never withdrew any troops from the region. These troops were originally border guards who are permanently deployed on Egyptian borders.

What raised the problem once again in 1991 was that the Sudanese Government granted oil exploration rights in the administrative area to a Canadian company. The Egyptian Government objected to that and the Sudanese Government accordingly rescinded the privilege given the Canadian company.

Fifth, after the Sudanese Government again raised the question of Hala'ib, the Egyptian Government responded to Sudan's request to hold talks through the two countries' joint committee to tackle this issue in a cordial atmosphere and within the framework of the historic relations between the two sisters. It sent a delegation to Khartoum in March 1992 to take part in the committee's first meeting.

The committee's second meeting was held in Cairo in October 1992. Egypt prepared to send its representatives to Khartoum to attend the third meeting, but while waiting for the Sudanese side's invitation to hold this meeting in January 1993, Egypt was taken by surprise when the Sudanese Government presented its memorandum to you. Egypt believes that Sudan resorted to this action to avoid having to continue to participate in the work of this committee, which aims to resolve disputes directly and cordially.

Sixth, the Egyptian Government believes the reference in the Sudanese foreign minister's recent memorandum to "the blatant aggression by the Egyptian forces that advanced on 9 December 1992" is unacceptable. There has never been any Egyptian presence on Sudanese territory south of the 22d parallel. The memorandum's allegation that "Hala'ib Governorate" is Sudanese territory is not substantiated by any legal, historic, or real evidence. These allegations uncover the Sudanese Government's intention to turn the administrative tasks entrusted to it into a permanent occupation and annexation of territory that evidently belongs to Egypt historically and legally.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to affirm that the Egyptian presence inside the Egyptian border north of the 22d parallel in the area mentioned above is natural, part of Egypt exercising sovereignty over its territory. This presence aims to protect Egypt's borders against incursion, particularly by terrorist groups, the activity of which has expanded recently.

Egypt's stand remains: To discuss any dispute with Sudan within the framework of full commitment to the provisions and principles of international laws and charters and the agreements accepted by both parties.

We build our relations with every state on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and respect for the rules of good neighborliness. Egypt has spared no effort to preserve solid and eternal ties with its fraternal neighbor Sudan.

I seize this opportunity to express my deepest regard and appreciation.

Ambassador to Sudan To Meet President al-Bashir

NC0601162093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1316 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian cabinet has instructed Egyptian Ambassador to Khartoum Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq to meet Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and relay to him the following facts:

1. That Egypt warns of the escalation of a limited political dispute between the two countries to a level that may undermine relations. Egypt does not believe that bilateral cultural relations should be affected by political differences.

2. Egypt will not create any obstacles for the implementation of the Sudanese decision [to place Egyptian-run schools under Sudanese authority] as long as the Sudanese Government insists on implementing it. However, Egypt will not accept the Khartoum government's right to seize by force buildings and institutions that are the property of the Egyptian Government.

3. The Egyptian educational mission of 400 teachers will be ready to return home as soon as the Sudanese decision is implemented.

This information came in the weekly article of Makram Muhammad Ahmad, the chief editor of AL-MUSAWWAR, published in Friday's [8 January] issue. [passage omitted]

Committee Calls Sudan's Resolutions 'Irresponsible'

NC0501204193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab, Foreign Relations, and National Security Committee has stressed that Sudan's recent resolutions and moves are irresponsible and will not harm Egypt as much as Sudan as a state and its Arab and international relations. A statement issued by the committee said that the schools belonging to the Egyptian mission in Sudan played a role in emphasizing the historic bonds between the two peoples. The statement said that no Sudanese Government ever before

thought of changing the status of these schools because they represented joint Egyptian-Sudanese interests.

Mubarak on Deportations' Implications for Talks

NC0601192493 Paris AFP in English 1815 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Al-Ghardaqah, Egypt, Jan 6 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said here Wednesday that he feared the Middle East peace talks will be in danger if Palestinian deportees remain stranded in south Lebanon.

"I fear there will be harmful implications for the peace process if a solution is not found for the deportees before negotiations resume," Mubarak told journalists who had asked if the talks might be suspended.

"We are doing our best with (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin to find a solution to this problem," Mubarak said at this Red Sea resort. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy on Deportees Arrives for Talks

NC0601174593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Chinmaya Gharekhan, a special envoy of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali for deportees, arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, Gharekhan will meet Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who is currently in Cairo, to discuss the framework of consultations with the Israeli side to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

'Amr Musa Confers With UN Envoy on Deportees

NC0701142093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this afternoon with UN Envoy to Israel Chinmaya Gharekhan.

The UN envoy said that he met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali last night for two hours and briefed him on developments on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. He added that he will travel to Israel later today and said he hopes his mission will be successful. He refused to discuss the details or duration of his mission. He said that Dr. Butrus-Ghali sent a message to the Security Council that the mission of his former envoy James Jonah had failed.

Al-Baz, 'Arafat Discuss Peace Process, Deportees

NC0601184493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening to review the situation in the Middle East and the future of the peace process in light of Israel's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories. They also discussed Egypt's efforts to boost the peace process and return the deportees, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat

NC0701092693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presidential office this morning.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

The president also received Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on his return from a visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Butrus-Ghali Arrives on Private Visit 6 Jan

NC0601123093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a private visit of several days, when he will be received by President Mubarak.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Butrus-Ghali at the airport.

Further on Butrus-Ghali Visit

NC0601174493 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 6 (AFP) - Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Egyptian-born UN chief, arrived here Wednesday to celebrate the Coptic Christmas and discuss the problem of Palestinian deportees with President Husni Mubarak, officials said.

The United Nations secretary general, who is on a three-day private visit, is to attend a midnight mass Wednesday in Cairo's Saint Mark Coptic cathedral, they said.

Butrus-Ghali, a former Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, will hold talks with Mubarak on "the problem of Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon and the UN's role in the matter," they added.

Butrus-Ghali warned Israel earlier this week that the United Nations might take further measures to enforce its December 18 resolution ordering the immediate return of the Palestinians. The UN chief will also meet in Cairo with his special envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan before Gharekhan leaves for Israel on a new UN mission to resolve the problem of the deportees.

Israel deported 415 suspected members of the fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad organizations on December 17 to south Lebanon, but the Lebanese Government refuses to accept responsibility for them.

Mubarak Receives Butrus-Ghali

NC0701112393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali in the presidential office at noon today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Musa on Mubarak-'Arafat-Ghali Meeting

NC0701130293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated Egypt's rejection of the ethnic cleansing policy being pursued in Bosnia-Hercegovina, emphasizing that Egypt cannot accept this type of activity.

He added that the Egyptian stand, as expressed by President Mubarak since the outset of the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, opposes aggression against Bosnia and stresses the need to preserve the rights of its Muslim people.

Musa was speaking to reporters following the meeting in which President Mubarak received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali today.

In his statements, Musa reiterated Egypt's rejection of any aggression against the sovereignty of any state, adding that this applies to the aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He added that Egypt has repeatedly expressed, and will continue to express through specific official channels, its rejection of the ethnic cleansing policy being pursued against the sons of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He pointed out that this aggression reflects the worst racist theories that have ever been expounded in Europe. He added that this issue occupies a central place on the agenda of our talks with European officials, who should shoulder their responsibility on the issue.

Commenting on President Mubarak's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat this morning, Musa said the two leaders resumed their discussion of the issue of peace and other relevant issues, specifically that of the Palestinian deportees. He added that the talks also dealt with the situation in the Arab world and certain Arab states.

Musa noted that he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat later, adding that it is natural for the deportees to be at the top of the agenda in view of the issue's influence on the atmosphere surrounding the peace process. He pointed out that this was at the core of President Mubarak's talks with 'Arafat today, in addition to diplomatic efforts Egypt can make to tackle this problem with Israel.

The foreign minister mentioned Egyptian efforts in this connection and the contacts it is making with Israeli officials, the United Nations, and Palestinian officials to take the necessary measures on the basis of international laws and the Geneva Convention. The Israeli measure constitutes a mass expulsion that is prohibited by international law.

Commenting on President Husni Mubarak's talks with Dr. Butrus-Ghali, 'Amr Musa said the UN secretary general reviewed with the president several issues under discussion by the United Nations. He said the talks were serious and dealt with many issues, notably the Middle East peace process and peace prospects in other regions, including Bosnia-Hercegovina and Somalia.

Regarding the ultimatum that the United States and its allies addressed to Iraq to withdraw its missile batteries from the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq, 'Amr Musa said President Mubarak and Dr. Butrus-Ghali did not discuss this issue.

Asked about Egypt's position on this, 'Amr Musa said: "We have not been asked to take a specific stand."

Asked if any new development had occurred in the Palestinian deportees' issue, 'Amr Musa said it is natural there should be something new. He noted that good offices are continuing to try to resolve the crisis, because its persistence would threaten the general climate of the peace process. He stressed that diplomatic efforts must go on.

The foreign minister announced: "I cannot say we have had any particular success on the deportees' problem, but good offices are continuing and the doors are not closed."

He said the UN secretary general will send an envoy to Israel tomorrow, Friday, to discuss this issue with its officials.

'Amr Musa said he will meet the UN secretary general's envoy in Cairo later today.

The foreign minister was asked what will happen concerning the deportees before the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks on 20 February. He replied: We will see when the time comes. It is not necessary to speak now

about what might happen in February, because we still have time to make more efforts. We hope we will clear the atmosphere surrounding the peace process.

Asked if there is any reason to be optimistic that the mission of the UN secretary general's envoy in connection with the deportees might succeed, 'Amr Musa said: "I believe we must not rule out a solution being found or at least some success being made toward solving the problem."

Asked if there are prospects for resolving the deportees issue without returning them to their country, the foreign minister said: There must be some measure on the expulsions. The deportees must return.

Luxembourg's Poos on Deportation, Visit

NC0601091093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Official Egyptian-Luxembourg talks opened at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian side while Luxembourg was represented by Jacques Poos, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Poos emphasized that Israel's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories contradicts international resolutions and human rights principles. He said Israel must reconsider its stand on this decision, especially since mass punishment is not compatible with principles of democracy. He added that Israel and the Israeli courts should look into this decision and he stressed the importance Luxembourg attaches to suspending this decision.

He said his talks with 'Amr Musa this evening dealt with international issues of common interest, especially the Middle East situation and the EC's role, and ways to consolidate relations between Egypt and Luxembourg.

Armenian Minister Departs Cairo for Damascus

NC0601163993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Acting Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan left Cairo for Damascus today following a three-day visit to Egypt.

In a departure statement, Kirakosyan said that he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from the Armenian president in which the latter expressed his country's desire for closer economic and scientific ties with Egypt. Kirakosyan added that he signed a memorandum of understanding between the Foreign Ministries of both countries. The memorandum, he said, urges coordination between the two ministries and calls for an annual meeting between the respective foreign ministers to enable them to coordinate their positions on various international and regional issues.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa accompanied the Armenian official to the airport.

Sudan, Iran, Israel, Others Said Involved in Terrorism

NC0601131193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 9

["Cairo Dispatch" by Amin Radwan]

[Excerpt] There are contradictory reports about Sudan and Iran's part in financing and training Egyptian Islamic fundamentalist groups and about the size and strength of these groups. Some sources also refer to a role being played by Israel and people of different nationalities, including a high-level Arab personality.

Informed Egyptian sources said that U.S. security reports on terrorism were submitted to the Egyptian leadership to aggravate Sudanese-Egyptian differences.

Other Egyptian sources close to official quarters attributed the Egyptian media campaign against Sudan to the agreement on joint agricultural projects between Egypt and Israel.

A report submitted to an official quarter in Egypt on 16 December affirmed that the leaders of the Islamic groups engaged in "terrorist operations" are continuing their activity from inside the Sudanese territory with the support of the Sudanese Government and with the help of Iranian experts. The report indicated that the number of leaders has reached 2,000, representing different Arab nationalities, mostly Egyptian. It pointed out that over 500 of them operate inside the Egyptian governorates and have not been arrested yet. The report expected a large number to flee across the border to Sudan.

The Egyptian security services think Sudan and Iran are behind the "terrorist" operations. Sources said the number of reports referring to the two countries' responsibility has reached 278.

The Sudanese opposition in Cairo has specified the locations inside Sudan where extremist groups from various Arab nationalities, Egyptians in particular, receive training. This was also confirmed by people who were active in al-Jihad Organization in Egypt at the beginning of the 1980's and reconciled with the government over five years ago.

Other official Egyptian quarters do not think these reports and information are accurate. They think there are exaggerations. These quarters indicate that none of the detainees has admitted a specific connection with Sudanese or Iranian officials or that they received financial support or military training from officials from the two countries. Some detainees said they received military training in al-Mujahidin al-'Arab camp near Bishawar in Pakistan on the pretext of fighting against the former communist government in Afghanistan.

These quarters also believe financial support comes from different nationalities, including people from oil-rich countries. The prosecution investigation in Alexandria, where death sentences were passed on fundamentalists at the end of last month, proved that a senior Arab figure who extended financial support to one of the Afghan mujahidin factions also financed the activity of the extremist groups in Egypt.

These sources revealed the Israeli intelligence "Mosad's" role in financing terrorist activity in Egypt. They referred to the arrest of three members of extremist Islamic groups in Asyut last year, who admitted under questioning that 200,000 Egyptian pounds was deposited in their name. They said they received this money from foreigners they met in Austria and Britain. These people's connection with the Israeli "Mosad" was revealed when the investigators showed the accused several photographs of these figures.

Sources close to these official quarters in Egypt attributed the continuing Egyptian media campaign against Sudan and its accusation of encouraging "terrorism" to several reasons that seriously affect the future of relations between the two countries, including the joint agricultural ventures that Egypt and Israel recently agreed. Israel wanted Egyptian Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali to persuade his government to supply Israel with Nile River water through the Egyptian "peace canal" via Rafah. This meant that Egypt would ask the Nile Valley states (including Sudan) to increase its share of the water.

Walid discussed with Sudanese officials the possibility of increasing his country's share of Nile water and urged them to support his country to meet the needs of the planned agricultural and development projects. The Sudanese asked him for a list of these projects and the proposed increase but he refused.

The problem became more complex when the Sudanese Government asked the Egyptian Government to establish agricultural cooperation between the two countries and submitted a list of projects. But Wali rejected it. This prompted the Sudanese to raise the issue with President Husni Mubarak, but Wali submitted an urgent report to the Egyptian president, stressing that economic feasibility studies proved such projects are not viable.

Following these developments, Israel sought to prove Sudan's involvement in incidents in Egypt through reports it submitted to Wali. [passage omitted]

Israeli Agents Said To Exaggerate Reports on Violence

NC0601184593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Jan 93 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report]

[Text] Well-informed sources have told AL-SHA'B that a group of agents of the Israeli intelligence apparatus (Mosad) have played a basic role in exaggerating reports on violent incidents in Egypt in the past few months. The sources said these agents were responsible for numerous reports published by some Western media that inaccurately portray the security situation in the country as very serious, which has had a clear effect on tourism.

The sources said that the agents Ben-Bekhum, Merdvan Sofer, Softis Yazraq, Gilman Patriz, Shim'on Shofe', and Navid Rahalta [names as transliterated] were implementing an Israeli scheme Mosad prepared after Egyptian authorities refused to establish joint tourism projects with Israel. The sources added that the six Mosad agents entered the country in July 1992 and left in November.

It should be noted that when the crisis began, AL-SHA'B asserted that the issue was not one of scattered acts of violence but of a conspiracy against the Egyptian economy. The Western press played a prominent role in the affair. It is well known that the Zionists have a lot of influence within the international tourism network and the international media.

Iraqi Arrested at Airport With Forged Passport

NC0601121493 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1114 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Security authorities at Cairo International Airport have arrested an Iraqi passenger who attempted to enter the country with a forged passport. The passenger arrived aboard an Egyptian plane coming from Amman. His name was found on the list of wanted persons while he was going through passport control. Colonel Muhammad al-Siba'i from the airport passport office took the passenger's passport to the forgery unit, which discovered that the passenger had forged the passport by removing the original photo and replacing it with his own.

Petroleum Minister Views Oil Agreements, Reserves

NC0601074993 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 30 Dec 92 pp 8-9

[Interview with Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, by Suhayr al-Husayni; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Husayni] Why have there been fewer petroleum agreements with Egypt and fewer applications to explore in the country recently?

[Al-Banbi] Undoubtedly, the number of exploration applications is much lower than it was, because major international firms now focus on countries that have reserves and give better exploration terms than Egypt gives foreign investors. We are ready to give better terms but how do we identify those that are required. We will conduct studies and international efforts to learn what the world wants to promote exploration operations. But officials in Egypt need to be prepared to cope with these

new international terms, because clutching the old terms means the decline in petroleum agreements will continue.

[Al-Husayni] Isn't the Egyptian petroleum minister responsible for these petroleum agreements?

[Al-Banbi] I am responsible at the ministry's level, but once these terms are drafted they must be referred to the People's Assembly committees to examine and debate the agreements. The committees may reject the new terms. I say this to give them a clear picture of the situation, because we must cope with world changes around us. Seven agreements were approved in 1992 and eight other agreements with similar terms will be signed. Later, more privileges must be granted to bring us into line with the remaining countries that have oil reserves.

[Al-Husayni] The Central Auditing Agency has affirmed that Egypt's oil reserves could last 11 years and that the current production level will remain for 20 years. How accurate are these figures, particularly as they conflict with what you declared in a petroleum conference, when you said production is increasing constantly?

[Al-Banbi] I talk about reality. Egypt's oil reserves are enough to last 11 years. If exploration ceases and we depend on our reserves for production, these reserves will effectively run out. But if we offer new areas for exploration and develop existing discoveries the reserves will increase. Perhaps our production could be confined to the new discoveries, so keeping our reserves fully intact. We must realize that the amount of reserves is a figure that is difficult to determine; it depends on several factors.

[Al-Husayni] What are these factors?

[Al-Banbi] There are three major factors that determine the amount of oil reserves. The first is the new discoveries we add; the second is the development of wells already discovered; and the third is the use of modern technology in production and exploration. It is difficult to give an accurate figure on reserves, but what we have in reserve now amounts to approximately 6 billion barrels of oil and natural gas. The expectation is that we will maintain this figure or add to it. I believe the figures in the Central Auditing Agency report were achieved by dividing the 6 billion barrels that constitute the reserves by the annual production level. This is an inaccurate and unrealistic calculation.

[Al-Husayni] How much is Egypt's oil production this year?

[Al-Banbi] It amounts to 420 million barrels a year, part of which is for local consumption and the rest for export.

[Al-Husayni] How much is Egypt's oil revenue this year?

[Al-Banbi] Some $2.027 billion for 1991/92. [passage omitted]

Terrorists Captured in 'Large-Scale' Security Campaign

NC0601123893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1103 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Asyut Security Directorate is carrying out a large-scale combing operation in the extremist groups' strongholds in the areas of Masarah, Dayrut, Sanabu, Manshiyat Nasir, and Dayrut al-Sharif. The operation, involving 8,000 soldiers, began on Monday and 180 active members of al-Jihad organization and another group called "al-Tabiyyunun" were arrested.

In an exclusive statement to the agency's correspondent, Major General 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali, Asyut security director, has said that most of the combing operations took place in the sugar cane fields the extremists use as a haven. He stressed that the security situation is completely stable and that tourist parties in general and the religious ones in particular that visit the holy Coptic shrines are sightseeing in an absolutely normal atmosphere and are escorted by vehicles equipped with communications equipment.

Maj. Gen. al-Hilali denied yesterday's reports that a tourist bus was attacked near the Dus farm in Dayrut. He said: These reports are completely baseless; it is a false rumor.

He also noted that the shots heard in that area were those of the combing campaign carried out by the security forces in a number of areas to capture the criminal elements.

Maj. Gen. al-Hilali went on to say that the campaign in the past three days resulted in the capture of 180 criminal elements, 16 of whom were apprehended last night during the combing operation in a number of villages in Asyut. He underlined the success of the intensive security raids in containing the danger posed by these criminal elements and in seizing large quantities of weapons and ammunition with them. [passage omitted]

'Extremist' Injures 2 in Bus Stabbing

NC0601122693 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1123 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—An extremist from the al-Shawqiyun group in al-Fayyum attacked and stabbed two passengers in a bus, inflicting serious injuries. The extremist, Mahmud 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hamid, tried to flee but onlookers detained him. [passage omitted]

Libya

Justice Minister Dies in Traffic Accident

NC0601193593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The General People's Congress' Secretariat, the General People's Committee, and the Revolutionary Committees' Movement mourn, with extreme pain and sadness, brother Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security, who died in a tragic traffic accident as he was returning from the Arab interior ministers conference, held in Tunisia the past two days. The deceased was a committed revolutionary element who served the country with utmost dedication, commitment, and seriousness. The General People's Congress, the General People's Committee, and the Revolutionary Committees' Movement implore God Almighty to grant the deceased his mercy and help us and his family face the great loss. To God we belong and to Him is our return. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The General People's Congress, the General People's Committee, the Revolutionary Committees' Movement.

JANA Comments on List of Terrorist Countries

LD0601140993 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] U.S. officials yesterday announced that the Bush administration delivered to the Congress a list of six countries which it said are believed to support international terrorist groups. The officials explained that the list names six countries, the Great Jamahiriyah among them.

JANA's political editor made the following comment:

Those six countries are the world's free countries which do not submit to the orders of imperialist America. Therefore, terrorism in this case is liberation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Egyptian, Tunisian Ministers

NC0701074093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information of fraternal Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, who arrived in Libya to continue discussion of some urgent Arab issues.

The brother leader of the revolution also received brother Habib Ben Yahya, minister of foreign affairs of fraternal Tunisia, who handed him a written message from Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali.

Sudan

'Arafat Views Peace Prospects, Talks With Hamas

EA0501190593 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA)—The Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, has praised the role played by the Arab and Islamic People's Conference and its secretary general, Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, in bringing closer the viewpoints of Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] during the talks held in Khartoum. Before leaving Khartoum yesterday evening, president 'Arafat described the talks which took place between the PLO and Hamas, held during the last two days in Khartoum, as a step towards uniting the ranks of the Palestinians in the face of the Zionist enemy.

'Arafat also denounced the order to expel Palestinians from their country. He described the prospects for peace in the Middle East as zero because of Israeli intransigence.

'Arafat had been in Khartoum for some days and had attended the country's celebration of its 37th independence anniversary. He also attended the talks between the PLO and Hamas held in Khartoum.

Leaves Khartoum

EA0501153093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA)—The Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Khartoum Monday [4 January] after a visit during which he participated in the celebrations of the independence day and the talks between the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Palestinian (PLO) which was recently held in Khartoum, at the initiative by the Popular Arab and Islamic conference (PAIC). [sentence as received]

In a departure statement, president 'Arafat expressed his gladness for participating in the independence day celebrations, appreciating achievements scored by the Sudan in different fields under the National Salvation Revolution (NSR).

President 'Arafat further hailed role being played by PAIC's secretary general Dr. Hasan al-Turabi in bringing close together viewpoints between Hamas and PLO. The talks are considered as step for unifying the Palestinian rank to confront the Israeli enemy, President 'Arafat said. He further denounced the decision of expelling the Palestinian citizens.

Assembly Speaker Comments on Ties With U.S.

PM0701113393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, by Wafa' 'Amr in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Amr] What is Sudan's position on the U.S. intervention in Somalia? Is there any fear of similar U.S. or foreign intervention in southern Sudan?

[Khalifah] I do not believe that in Sudan there is fear of intervention because the Sudanese issue is quite different from the Somali issue. We have enough food and we have concluded an agreement in Nairobi with the warring parties covering relief routes. We have a good crop this year. [passage omitted]

I have met with Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and told him that we welcomed the move because it was a humanitarian move. At the same time, I warned him against turning it into a political move and against political intervention in Somalia because that would only fuel the fire. What has been happening in Somalia is a struggle for power. That is a political matter, and the United States, for all its might, cannot impose any particular person or ruler on Somalia. Cohen assured me that the United States went there to save the starving Somali people. In other words, it was a humanitarian not a political move.

['Amr] Are you convinced that the aims of the U.S. intervention in Somalia are humanitarian, not political?

[Khalifah] It is really up to them. If they interfere politically then I warn them against Lebanonizing Somalia because that would be detrimental to the forces in Somalia. I say this with the logic of a man who is close to Somalia. If the aims are humanitarian then that would be a gain for the U.S. forces because they would find a friendly Sudan supportive on foreign policy.

['Amr] When you say that Sudan warns the United States, what exactly do you mean?

[Khalifah] It is a warning on the grounds that we know the Somali people and we know what is going on in Somalia. Scores of thousands have died in Somalia because of politics and the struggle for power. We warn the Americans in the same way their ambassador in Nairobi warned them and in the same way former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned, that U.S. political interference in Somalia would be a terrible mistake. [passage omitted]

['Amr] What if the United States did interfere politically? What steps would Sudan take?

[Khalifah] We do not interfere in the internal affairs of any state, but we utter our warning as a way of advice because we know the region better than the United States and all the West. Sudan knows the Horn of Africa better than any other state. We say that if the United States interfered to impose a particular ruler on Somalia and then give him military protection, the result would be more civil war in Somalia. [passage omitted]

['Amr] How would you describe U.S.-Sudanese relations? Did the formation of a U.S.-Sudanese joint committee have anything to do with eliminating or easing the tension?

[Khalifah] Yes. U.S.-Sudanese relations have undoubtedly passed through two stages. The first was governed by some kind of apprehension about this current Islamic awakening posing a threat to U.S. interests, but we have reassured them and said that we are Muslim people and that there is such awakening in every Arab state. We, as rulers, have made peace with the people to prevent infighting similar to what is now happening in Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and other states. So, there is agreement between the ruling body in Sudan and the public. We want that to be based on divine, not secular, grounds, but not at their expense and not at the expense of Western strategy. As members of the international community and the United Nations we agree that our foreign policy is to deal and cooperate with every state in the interest of what is good and virtuous, not in the interest of aggression. There is a dialogue between Sudan and the United States or between Islam and the West. There is a misconception among the brothers in the West about Islam. They think Islam is against human rights and liberties. We explained to them that Islam is innocent of that. This discussion, dialogue, and intellectual development have resulted in a great rapprochement between Sudan and the United States. [passage omitted]

['Amr] It has been claimed that there are camps in Sudan for Arab extremists and camps supervised by Iran, and that these camps were previously separate but have recently been merged with the camps used for training the popular defense forces loyal to [National Islamic Front Secretary General] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. What is your reaction to that?

[Khalifah] We have challenged them—and that challenge still stands—to find us a single non-Sudanese person training in Sudan. This is an open invitation and challenge to all the world. Let them come to Sudan. Our territory is open and our camps are open. Let them find a single non-Sudanese person training in Sudanese territory, be he Jordanian, Egyptian, or Iranian.

['Amr] Is it possible to say that Sudan has recently softened its tone on the border dispute with Egypt?

[Khalifah] Chairman al-Bashir has never been intransigent in any of his speeches, recently demonstrating a high sense of responsibility. We do not want to inflict more wounds on the Arab body. Al-Bashir has said that we would never fire a single shot on the Egyptian brothers because that must be saved for the real enemy, but the Egyptian brothers do not really treat us as brothers. That is the issue and that is the truth.

They have a presence in Hala'ib with the armed forces increasing steadily in the Hala'ib region. There is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee formed to solve the problem through negotiations. We ask the Egyptians to treat us the way they treated the Israelis in Tabah. We should negotiate. That is what we ask and that is the message. [passage omitted]

INA Reports CIA Involvement in 'Subversive Scheme'

JN0401165693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (INA)—Press reports published here today reveale that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] is involved in a large-scale subversive scheme against Sudan.

The Sudanese weekly AL-MASIRAH says special CIA units have trained military personnel in an East African state to infiltrate into Sudan and carry out large-scale operations, including acts of subversion and assassination.

The paper adds: The scheme was scheduled to be implemented in late 1992 or early 1993, but was not because it was exposed. In an attempt to cover up the scheme, the U.S. State Department issued a circular to its embassies and citizens warning them not to travel to Sudan because of, according to the State Department, the possibility of acts of violence there.

Assembly Speaker Receives Message From Iraqi Counterpart

EA0501200093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Jan (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah met at his office Monday [4 January], the Iraqi ambassador to Sudan 'Abd-al- Samad Hamad al-Ta'ish, who handed him a written message from the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Sayyid Mahdi Salih.

The message expressed Iraqi leaders' and people's appreciation of Sudan's stances alongside Iraq in facing the blockade imposed on it.

In a press statement following the meeting, the Iraqi ambassador explained that the message included an invitation from the Iraqi assembly speaker to Khalifah to visit Iraq.

Tunisia

Al-Nahdah Leader Views Situation, Aims

NC0601153593 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Dec 92 pp 3, 16

["Exclusive" interview with Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the al-Nahdah opposition movement in Tunis, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Mr. Ghannouchi, in an interview some time ago you stressed the political solution for taking power in Tunis. What do you think about the violence taking place to topple the Ben Ali regime?

[Ghannouchi] The al-Nahdah movement is an Islamic politico-ideological movement that calls on the people to return to Islam, the true identity of the Tunisian people, and also to adopt Arabic as the official language for administrative and educational purposes. We consider democracy and political means a solution for resolving politico-ideological differences in social life. We strive for cooperation and unity among all the oppressed nations and the Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian Government's objectives in its attacks against us were to coerce the movement to relinquish its amicable method of solving problems and its political activity and to resort to restricted clandestine and violent underground activities. With God's blessings, all these plans met defeat and the movement has weathered every storm. It has survived because of its reliance on divine succor and on the assistance and faith of the nation's devout people.

The movement's greatest demand in the face of the ruling regime's violence and brutality is for freedom of political activity for political parties. To achieve this objective we entered the arena by mobilizing the nation's offspring to participate in marches so that we could make the government realize that we demand our lawful rights.

The myopic seem to think the security measures adopted by the Ben Ali government against the wave of Islamic awareness and awakening in the country have succeeded and that the movement's call for a policy of amicable participation in achieving our rights has suffered a setback! Although this is the initial impression, it is not so. History and experience have taught us that religious beliefs and thoughts cannot be suppressed by force and intimidation and that Islamic ideas have their roots deep in the hearts of the Tunisian people.

The Islamic movement has raised the level of people's contact with Islamic thoughts and injunctions and the people have always championed the oppressed because of their Islamic and humanitarian beliefs.

Like a seething wave in universities, mosques, and streets, the Tunisian people defend the divine values. In Tunisia, the ruling party has plunged the nation into fear by intimidating and repressing, but it does not have any specific ideological or political program to replace Islam.

[RESALAT] To what extent has Zine al Abidine's promise of national accord been implemented?

[Ghannouchi] One of the distinctive and obvious traits of political life in Tunis has been the great difference between the word and deed of its ruling parties. While the regime proclaims itself the supporter of human rights and adherent of freedom and democracy, facts and figures prove the situation to be otherwise.

The torture of 30,000 political prisoners, which is taking place with the blessing of the highest authorities; the martyrdom of over 60 prisoners by inhuman torture; the

banning of all independent newspapers opposed to the government; the pressuring of legal political factions; prohibition of all activities, dissolution of social and student organizations; dissimulation in elections; and the establishment of a single-party parliament, although the opposition candidates gained most votes; and so on. All these are measures indicating the narrowmindedness of the regime and its inability to accept serious opposition. The situation is the opposite of that which the regime wishes to propagate and project. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] Tunis is reportedly pursing a policy of eliminating all bases for the Arab and Islamic identity. What is your assessment of the issue?

[Ghannouchi] The nihilistic policy of the Tunisian regime against the wave of the Islamic awakening is not directed only toward the al-Nahdah movement. In classified government circulars, the Interior Ministry, the Ministries of Culture, Youth, Education and Social Services have been instructed to deal harshly with the Islamist trend to uproot it completely and scorch the roots of "religious trends in society." This is why Ben Ali has appointed Marxist ministers to head the Ministries of Education Propaganda and Youth and Culture, to indoctrinate materialism, Westernization, and the eradication of the Islamic identity.

In educational programs, the replacement of Arabic by French is one of the foremost objectives. I may mention just one case that shows the regime's true nature. In the map of the Middle East, Palestine has been replaced by "Israel." [passage omitted]

The Tunisian regime is not only opposed to the al-Nahdah movement, but is striving to destroy all Islamic beliefs and values from society. A Tunisian cultural delegate said in Cairo that the best way to combat the Islamist movement is to attack its ideological bases! Without a doubt, the war against Islam continues in Tunis with great intensity. The obligation to thwart this destructive trend is not only the duty of Tunisians; it is the responsibility of the entire Islamic ummah.... On the other hand, we are certain that the future of Tunis, as with all other Islamic countries, is an Islamic one. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] In your campaign against the Ben Ali regime, are you considering establishing a government in exile in Europe or some other country?

[Ghannouchi] Before anything else, I wish to stress that our movement is still confined to Tunisia, despite the fact that domestic pressure continues. Some of our offspring have, however, left the country. Their hearts still beat the country and all their activities are directed toward their return to the homeland and their eventual participation in its reconstruction. In any case, we have never even thought about a government in exile.

[RESALAT] What has been your response to the sentence of life imprisonment that the Tunisian regime has issued for you and all the leaders of your movement?

[Ghannouchi] All evidence points to the fact that Ben Ali's initial intention was to issue orders for the large-scale execution of a large number of Muslims and, in particular, the leaders of the Islamic movement. Hence, the government commenced extensive publicity to prepare the grounds for this decision. However, conditions emerged that deterred him from carrying out his plans. The most important factor was that the spilling of the blood of revolutionary Muslims would ignite the fury of the nation and be the spark of an extensive revolution that would shatter the regime's foundations. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] We have seen the escalation of activities of Islamic groups in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. How do you view the future of the Islamic movements in these countries with regard to the repressive and brutal policy of their ruling governments?

[Ghannouchi] The development of the Islamic acumen and the proliferation of activities and power in influencing the area is not confined to the countries you mentioned. Islam is the sole ideological and cultural program for the youth and the nations in these countries. Islam has inspired hope for freedom among the youth. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] What is the future program of the al-Nahdah movement with regard to its campaign against Ben Ali?

[Ghannouchi] The al-Nahdah movement, in its capacity as a political party, will continue to adhere to its cultural and political program despite the continual torture, imprisonment, hunger, and homelessness that it has had to endure. It is determined to forge ahead and fulfill its objectives, which are based on truth.

Within the framework of these objectives, we will strive to eliminate oppression of the Tunisian nation and reduce pain and suffering. We also demand a general and legitimate amnesty, the restitution of our Islamic identity, and the use of the Arabic language. This should constitute the basis of the country's national identity and should be the foundation of our political stances, especially in rectifying our social problems and in forging foreign relations that will counteract the current destructive cultural and ethical programs.

Our other objective is to get respect for individual and collective rights of the people. All internal resources and foreign relations should be geared to this objective. We consider democracy a means for resolving political, ideological, and social disputes, and we are striving for the freedom of all individuals and national groups, for freedom of movement, belief, and for the dissemination of propaganda.

[RESALAT] As my last question, could you tell us whether Israel is playing a part in the repression of the Islamic movement in Tunisia?

[Ghannouchi] We do not have any evidence on the participation of the Israeli regime in the repression of our movement; however, the numerous manifestations of the presence of the Zionist regime in Tunisia and the efforts of our regime to disguise them, including military and intelligence activities, are themselves eloquent testimony to the influence of the Zionists on the ruling regime. For example, there was the increase in the murders of Palestinian leaders in Tunisia, even in the form of aerial military attacks on their bases in 1985. The activities of Mosad in Tunis, their tapping and recording of telephone conversations of Palestinian leaders, was also reported in the newspapers. A Tunisian network comprised of high-level officials was discovered to have close links with Mosad, etc. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, the Zionist regime's support of Ben Ali's regime is one of the reasons the government has increased its repression of Islamist movement and its campaign against Islamists. What is most dangerous is that the regime has initiated extensive activities for spreading corruption in the nation, especially among the youth to destroy the Islamic bases in the country.

Kuwait

Radio Reports 5 Jan Iraqi Attack on Border Post

LD0701104893 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...The source said that, following this, the Kuwaiti post received support from [word indistinct] from border posts, from patrols belonging to the Interior Ministry, and from the 7th [words indistinct] of the Kuwaiti Army.

The source pointed out that the Iraqi attack resulted in material losses to the Kuwaiti post and to vehicles belonging to the post.

[Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 7 January adds at the end of this bulletin: "A responsible source at the Interior Ministry announced that a Kuwaiti border post was subjected to a two-hour attack on the night of the day before yesterday by elements belonging to the Iraqi regime."]

Royal Family Members' Property Seized Over Cash 'Scandal'

NC0701090893 Paris AFP in English 2248 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Jan 6 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti authorities have seized property from two members of the emirate's royal family, and another person, suspected in a scandal involving Kuwaiti investment losses in Spain, a Kuwaiti newspaper said Wednesday [6 January].

The prosecutor had ordered property seized from those suspected in the scandal at the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in Spain, the AL-QABAS paper said.

The KIO manages the Torras group, which directs Kuwaiti investments in Spain where losses reached an estimated five billion dollars, AL-QABAS said.

Property was seized from Shaykh Fahd Muhammad al-Sabah, former director of the KIO office in London, his assistant Shaykh Khalid Nasir al-Hamud al-Sabah and former executive of the Kuwaiti holding company, Fu'ad Ja'far, as well as from close relatives, AL-QABAS said.

The Sabah family rules Kuwait.

Deputy Premier al-'Uthman Resigns for 'Health Reasons Only'

PM0601165993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jan 93 p 1

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Al-'Awadi and al-Ya'qub Nominated for al-'Uthman's Post"]

[Text] Kuwait—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that contacts and consultations are currently being conducted in Kuwaiti government circles to choose a second deputy prime minister, as Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman's resignation has become a reality. Well-informed sources have said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi and Dr. Jasim al-Ya'qub are the the most distinguished candidates for the post.

Although no official statement has been issued by the Kuwaiti Government regarding Al-'Uthman's resignation and whether it has been officially accepted, sources close to the "former" deputy prime minister emphasize that the resignation is attributable to health reasons only, because Al-'Uthman is suffering from a disease which has forced him to be admitted to hospital more than three times over the past few weeks.

It is worth noting that Al-'Uthman went to the United States last month to undergo surgery there. So his insistence on resigning is attributable to his wish to get complete health care and rest. The source expressed his astonishment at recent rumors about a disagreement inside the Kuwaiti Government, pointing out that they are baseless.

Dr. al-'Awadi is a distinguished former Kuwaiti minister. He held several posts, such as health minister and cabinet affairs minister. He also served as planning minister in the former government.

Dr. al-Ya'qub was information minister in the former government.

Al-'Uthman's resignation provoked reactions among ordinary Kuwaitis, and National Council Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun and a number of parliamentary, government, and public figures could not persuade him to go back on his resignation.

Ministers Deny Resignations Rumours

PM0701085593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jan 93 pp1, 4

[Husayn 'Abd-al-Rahman report: "Collective Denial of Rumors About Resignation of Kuwaiti Ministers"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has denied that he had considered submitting his resignation from the cabinet to Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. He said that Shaykh Sa'd "appointed him interior minister in October" and that he has only been in that post for three months.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before leaving for Tunis yesterday to attend the Arab interior ministers meetng, Shaykh Ahmad said that the claims about his resignation "are figments of some people's imagination." He added that "thank God, I have worked and shouldered many responsibilities in the government

in difficult circumstances since Kuwait's liberation, and today I am capable of shouldering the responsibilities entrusted to me."

The interior minister said that he would welcome any criticism made against him in the interest of reform, and would welcome any questions or queries from members of the National Assembly.

Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud has been one of the ministers most targeted in the deputies' criticism, "some of which was purely personal." He was the focal point throughout seven National Assembly sessions, but he came through these sessions calmly and logically answered the deputies' criticism.

The rumors about the interior minister's resignation surfaced after Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, second deputy prime minister and minister of state for cabinet affairs, submitted his resignation for health reasons. No official statement has yet been issued about that resignation.

Government sources say it is too early to talk about candidates for the post although the names of Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi and Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub have been mentioned. Dr. al-'Awadi has emphasized that he does not wish to return to politics and said that he would only be writing articles for Kuwaiti papers. Political and parliamentary circles believe that it is unlikely that al-Ya'qub would get the deputy prime minister's post because "the current ministers would have reservations about that" and so would leaders of political and religious blocs in the National Assembly.

There have also been some rumors about the resignation of Social Affairs and Labor Minister Jasim al-'Awn but he denied that, saying that he would receive well-wishers after returning from abroad where he would donate one of his kidneys to his niece, and would begin work in his office on the accumulating work load, especially the question of stopping permits for work abroad.

Some Kuwaiti papers have also published denials by Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan in which he said that he did not submit his resignation and would be attending the National Assembly's session tomorrow and the cabinet meeting the day after.

Qatar

Qatar Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics 7 Jan

JN0701122093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 7 Jan (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has decided to recognize the Czech and Slovak Republics as two independent sovereign republics. It expressed confidence that this recognition would contribute to expanding and reinforcing friendship and cooperation relations with both countries.

In statements to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, a Foreign Ministry official said that this recognition is in harmony with the State of Qatar's constant policy of respecting the peoples' will to achieve self-determination and their national choices.

Yemen

Libyan Said To Have Trained Hotel Bombers

PM0601164193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "Aden: Bombers of Two Hotels Targeted Airport and Seaport"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden, AL-HAYAH—An authoritative security source in Aden told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the investigations which security organs in the city are conducting into those suspected of involvement in the recent terrorist actions have revealed that "a number of them had been assigned—in addition to blowing up the Aden Hotel, the 'Golden Moor' Hotel, and the tourist chalets complex—to bomb Aden's airport and sea port." The source said that "the person who supervised their training to carry out these operations is a Libyan who came from Libya and lived in Sa'dah Governorate (North Yemen). He used to dress in Yemeni costume. After the training, which took place at a special camp in Sa'dah, the Libyan, who belongs to the Yemeni 'al-Jihad organization, left the country." The source revealed that "last Tuesday evening—a few minutes before the explosions—the security authorities arrested a person who was carrying a rocket-propelled grenade launcher near Aden airport. But they did not reveal this because of the serious information provided by the suspect during his interrogation."

As is known, two people were killed and five wounded in the two explosions which occurred at the Aden Hotel and the Golden Moor Hotel last Tuesday evening. [passage omitted]

Security Service Viewed in Wake of Hotel Bombings

PM0601165193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Five Hundred Detainees in Aden; Leader of 'Afghans' Expected To Surrender Soon"]

[Text] Sanaa, Aden, AL-HAYAH—Military and political sources in Sanaa and Aden yesterday emphasized that the Yemeni Armed Forces are continuing their siege of the Mount al-Sawadiyah/al-Maraqishah village area 3 km from Shaqra' city in Abyan Governorate, to force Shaykh Tariq Bin-'Abdallah Nasir al-Fadli, who leads "Yemen's Afghans," to give himself up without bloodshed.

The sources expect Shaykh Tariq, son of Abyan's last sultan, to surrender at any moment, especially as the Yemeni Presidential Council has refused to allow the shaykh to give himself up to the central authorities, stressing the need that he should surrender to the local authorities instead.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar refused to allow Tariq al-Fadli to give himself up in his presence and emphasized in a message he sent to him: "We do not protect criminals."

Security organs yesterday evening arrested a group of gunmen in Khurmaksar city. They arrested a similar group in Kartir [as transliterated] city on Saturday. Well-informed sources have said that about 500 people, most of them from the "Jihad" organization, have been arrested since the two explosions which occurred in Aden last Tuesday.

Military sources in Yemen have said that Shaykh Tariq, who had been abroad since the British left southern Yemen in 1967, returned secretly a month ago to lead "Yemen's Afghans" in carrying out "political assassinations and bombings of a number of economic and tourist installations to undermine security and fragment the country's unity."

They added that "those detained on charges of carrying out the Aden explosions and of attempting to assassinate 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, the Socialist official in Abyan, and bomb the residence of Parliament Speaker Yasin Nu'man, confirmed during interrogation that Shaykh Tariq al-Fadli is their leader and that they received sums of money from a businessman named Usamah, who is reported to be in Sudan at present."

AL-HAYAH has learned that Shaykh Tariq and a number of his guards and followers fled to Mount al-Sawadiyah after they were informed of the results of the investigations, carrying weapons which included antiaircraft missiles—which prompted the political leadership to seek the Armed Forces' intervention to end the matter and force him and his followers to give themselves up.

Reliable sources contacted by AL-HAYAH yesterday pointed out that "Shaykh Tariq, son of Abyan's sultan before the British left southern Yemen, requested to be allowed to hand himself over to Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, chairman of the higher preparatory committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping and chief of the Hashid tribes, but Al-Ahmar refused and said in a message he sent to Shaykh Tariq: "We do not protect criminals."

An authoritative security source in Aden has told AL-HAYAH that "security organs arrested a group of young men at a house in Khurmaksar city yesterday evening . They had in their possession large quantities of arms, including rubber missiles [sawarikh mattatiyah], hand grenades, mines, and machine guns."

Other information indicates that this group was arrested a day after another group was arrested at a house in Kartir. It had in its possession similar quantities of arms. Security men found two hand grenades at a bus stop near Aden airport, which was emptied of the tents set up for the U.S. forces taking part in the operation "Restore Hope" in Somalia.

Reports indicate that residents in the city are very satisfied with the measures taken by Yemeni security and intelligence organs to arrest large groups of young men suspected of affiliation to the "Jihad" organization. Some sources say that nearly 500 people have been arrested since the two explosions which occurred in Aden last Tuesday. Intelligence organs watched their movements for several months.

AL-HAYAH's reporter in Aden yesterday saw large numbers of foreign tourists walking in the city's streets without any protection, while tight security measures have been imposed around hotels, tourist resorts, night clubs, and the airport of the economic capital of the country and its seaport and some economic installations.

'Aziz Rejects 'Clamor' Over Air Defense Weapons

JN0701085593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0853 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has denounced the clamor fabricated by U.S. circles over the deployment of air defense weapons in the south of the country.

'Aziz said: U.S. circles continue to present the Bush administration's decision to impose a no-fly zone in southern Iraq in a twisted way by claiming it is a UN resolution. As we have stressed before, this is a U.S. decision in which Britain and France were involved. It was taken amid the circumstances surrounding Bush's election campaign to serve personal objectives.

In a statement to INA, the deputy prime minister asserted: Iraq does not recognize this ban. Iraq has the right to deploy air defenses all over the country, and Iraqi pilots should not be prevented from flying in their country's skies for training and patrolling purposes.

'Aziz asserted that Iraq's entire military activity does not go beyond defensive duties.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq rejects the U.S. threats and that any new hostile act against Iraq will be another aggression committed against an independent country and a violation of international law, something which should be denounced and deplored in the Arab homeland and the world.

'Aziz said: We have already explained our position vis-a-vis comments that link Iraq's defensive activities with U.S. President-elect Clinton's stand, and we said that Iraq has no intention of testing Clinton, as alleged.

'Aziz said: Iraq wants the U.S. policy to be objective and nonaggressive, irrespective of who is the U.S. President. Iraq's concern for its sovereignty, independence, and legitimate rights has no connection with the change in the person of the U.S. President.

PRC Concern for Country's Sovereignty Noted

JN0701120793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, 7 Jan (INA)—China today asserted that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity should be respected.

This position emerged in a statement by Wu Jianmin, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, in response to the clamor fabricated by U.S. circles over the deployment of air defense weapons in southern Iraq. He also said that Beijing does not wish to see renewed tension and complication in the Gulf region.

Awards Ordered for Performance in Rice Marketing

JN0701082293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has ordered rewards for governorate employees who achieve high performance in the marketing of rice for this season, in accordance with the regulations covering rewards for governorate employees charged with marketing wheat and barley. These regulations are as follows:

1. First prize: 3 million dinars; second prize: 2 million dinars; third prize: 1.5 million dinars; Fourth prize: 1 million dinars.

2. The fifth prize is half a million dinars and is given to governorate officials who have not failed in their work to collect and market rice. Governorate employees shall be deprived of any prize if they fail to achieve the required performance.

3. District employees shall receive a ratio of the prize for governorate employees. However, district officials who fail to fulfill their duties shall be deprived of any reward even if the governorate as a whole wins any of the five above mentioned prizes.

The leader president, may God protect him, has also instructed that each of the prizes for the marketing of wheat, barley, and rice for the next reason shall be raised by half a million dinars. Thus, the first prize becomes 3.5 million dinars, the second 2.5 million dinars, the third 2 million dinars, the fourth 1.5 million dinars, and the fifth 1 million dinars.

Minister Lays Wreath on Unknown Soldier's Monument

JN0601124093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Deputizing for Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and on the 72d anniversary of the valiant Iraqi Army, Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, today laid a wreath on the Unknown Soldier's Monument. [passage omitted]

Opposition Seeks Political, Ideological Focus

PM0601131993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Abroad Urges Crystallization of Political and Ideological Line"]

[Text] London—A large number of Iraqis opposed to Saddam Husayn's regime and belonging to various political and ideological trends held an enlarged meeting in the evening of 2 January. They discussed all aspects of the Iraqi issue in the present circumstances and the firm

national principles they are committed to in the struggle for a sovereign, free, just, and united Iraq. They agreed to crystallize a political and ideological line for this phase in the history of Iraq and its people at an enlarged meeting they decided to call in the next few weeks.

They saw a need to answer the Iraqi generations who, greatly worried and alarmed, are asking: Will Iraq remain a single state? What kind of democracy is required? Will there be a rule of law? What is the way to overthrow the dictatorial regime and eliminate its devastating effects on Iraq and the region's states? At this first consultative meeting a clear need arose for an Iraqi political, patriotic, and civilized plan that would restore the Iraqi citizen's faith in himself, his people, his homeland, and his political opposition.

The conferees' focal point was that they should not lose sight of the original objective, which is to topple the current regime which has brought calamities to Iraq and the Iraqis and to all Arabs and Muslims. They emphasized their insistence on Iraq's sovereignty and national unity and on the elimination of the injustice and harm which the Iraqi people have suffered since the 17 July 1968 coup, and especially since Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait 2 August 1990, with the catastrophes and tribulations continuing with the regime's continuation, and with the blockade which the international community insists will continue as long as that regime continues. The conferees urged the international community and its humanitarian organizations to ensure that food, medicine, and civilian aid reach all Iraqi regions and all sectors of the population, and not to negotiate with the despotic regime in Baghdad nor normalize diplomatic and political relations with it. They also urged the international community and its humanitarian organizations to prevent the spread of famine and epidemic diseases in Iraqi cities. In their endeavor to find solutions to the current Iraqi crisis the conferees rejected racism and sectarianism, and they appealed to others to do the same. They reached a general national understanding, or rather agreement, on these broad outlines or general principles. They then elected a committee assigned to issue invitations to an "expanded intermediary consultative" meeting to be attended by the various opposition parties, organizations, and figures at home and abroad.

They left it to the next plenary meeting to discuss the possibility of holding a general unified congress of the Iraqi opposition to play its part in introducing and defining a general national plan in detail. They noted the need for a unified and qualified higher political and field leadership to emerge in the future from the Iraqi opposition's general congress, provided all Iraqi forces of all political and ideological affiliations participate. The conferees urged the UN Security Council to implement its sole resolution on Iraqi human rights, namely resolution 688, saying that Iraq as a whole from north to south and east to west should be made a safe haven, and urging the international community to find a new mechanism for the implementation of the blockade imposed on Iraq in a way that would harm the regime but not the Iraqi people, who are not responsible for the regime's actions and attitudes which have endangered Iraq's sovereignty over its territory and wealth, and its independent decisionmaking.

Rabin Agrees to IRC Visit to Deportees'

TA0701122093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1145 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] We have a political development: There has been a change in the Israeli stand regarding the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. The prime minister has just agreed to allow the one-time passage of an International Red Cross [IRC] delegation. On the line from the Prime Minister's Office is our political correspondent Shlomo Raz:

The IRC delegation is made up of two representatives, who will be allowed to reach the deportees' encampment in south Lebanon. The two will survey the situation in the encampment. They will be flown from al-Naqurah to the camp site aboard a UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] helicopter and will return to the UNIFIL landing pad the same day, after their survey is completed.

Israel is thus acceding to an IRC request to conduct a survey. The request was presented separately to Israel and Lebanon. Israel agreed; Lebanon did not. According to the IRC information, there is no need for emergency aid for those who were removed; that is why they are flying in only two officials to will conduct the survey. The new IRC appeal was made last night, and Prime Minister Rabin decided to agree to it a short while ago.

As said before, the two IRC representatives will be crossing territory under Israeli control. The passage involves very fine details, such as the decision that they will go there aboard a UNIFIL helicopter and depart from al-Naqurah. These are the details we have at this time.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Cooperation With UN

TA0601171193 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Rafi Reshef—live]

[Excerpt] [Reshef] We invited Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin to the studio in connection with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's threats, or implicit threats, to impose sanctions in the event Israel fails to return the deportees. Good afternoon, sir.

[Beilin] Good afternoon.

[Reshef] How seriously does Jerusalem view Butrus-Ghali's threat?

[Beilin] There has already been one Security Council resolution—Resolution 799, which asked us to return the deportees. In the wake of that, a UN envoy was dispatched here. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali claimed that the envoy's mission failed, and there obviously has been no change in the deportees' status. The Security Council naturally has the option of reconvening and adopting a more drastic resolution, one that would, for instance, set a date for the deportees' return. I do not mean to discount that, but I believe we can convince several of our foreign friends, who are Security Council members—and I am referring mainly to the United States, which has a veto right—to refrain from endorsing any such harsh resolution against Israel, because they are aware of and understand the background and the motives behind our decision.

[Reshef] It can be assumed this will happen after the Clinton administration takes over. Is it your belief that the United States will veto the resolution, or avert sanctions if such a resolution is adopted?

[Beilin] First of all, I am not sure this will happen under the Clinton administration; it can happen in the coming days. I assume the U.S. Administration will be unable to be a party to that, because it understands perfectly well the constraints under which we operate and the difficulty of coping with the uncompromising struggle against the peace process and against us.

[Reshef] But does the very dispatch of a second UN envoy within such a short period not imply a message? Was the government surprised at the intensity of the UN reaction?

[Beilin] I can hardly say we were surprised. I admit there is a certain message there, although I must add we do not necessarily understand what it is. It could be said the envoy is being sent because the previous one failed and the secretary general wants to issue a warning, or conversely, that the secretary general could be doing it to prevent a harsh resolution, to mitigate the Security Council's resolution. I do not know for certain what the new UN envoy's mission is, but in any event, we can meet with him, thoroughly acquaint him with our motives, and send him back with a fuller understanding of our problems.

[Reshef] Then you do not foresee a softening of the stance on either the return of deportees or International Red Cross [IRC] aid?

[Beilin] I do not think their return is on the agenda, but we will definitely be able to discuss various possibilities. As you know, we are prepared to permit the IRC access under certain conditions. We will definitely be able to discuss with the envoy everything dealing with humanitarian concerns.

[Reshef] In more detail than agreed at the Cabinet meeting?

[Beilin] Things have changed since the Cabinet meeting. At that time, there was serious talk of food and medicines shortage, but that problem no longer exists.

[Reshef] But do you believe Israel will be more flexible if asked to provide some kind of aid?

[Beilin] I hope we will find a way to show our readiness to cooperate on humanitarian issues and to ease the situation in this respect, thereby easing our own situation at the Security Council.

[Reshef] Are you speaking with Yitzhaq Rabin's knowledge and consent?

[Beilin] I said I assume, I hope; I can only speak for myself. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Said To Fear UN Sanctions

TA0701104693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Shlomo Shamir]

[Excerpt] On the eve of UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan's trip to Israel, there is mounting criticism at the Foreign Ministry over Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's uncompromising position regarding humanitarian aid to the deportees. Senior Foreign Ministry officials believe this could lead to an erosion in Israel's international standing and even culminate in Security Council- imposed sanctions.

Following consultations with Israel's delegation to the United Nations, the same officials recommended that Israel make a humanitarian gesture toward the deportees even before the envoy arrives. One of the recommendations was to find a way to convince the deportees to file petitions at the military appeal committees.

Sources in Jerusalem fear that if the Security Council debate takes place before Bill Clinton enters the White House, President Bush may avoid vetoing any resolution taken against Israel. According to reports from New York, the assessment is that if Gharekhan's mission proves to be a failure, the Security Council's next step would be to set a target date for the implementation of Resolution 799. If the deportees issue is not resolved by the target date, the United States would find it difficult to veto a resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, if the decision conforms with Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

Mordekhay, Senior Officers Tour Security Zone

TA0601211093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Military elements do not rule out the possibility of increased attacks by Hizballah and Palestinian organizations in south Lebanon in the coming days. The rise is seen as a reaction to the expulsion of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, and senior command officers this afternoon toured the south Lebanese area, from which artillery was fired in recent days. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports:

[Begin recording] ['Eden] It was from this position near the al-Litani river in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon that Hizballah terrorists fired mortar and katyushas at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions yesterday and today. Tanks and artillery guns continued dense fire today, killing two terrorists in a village facing the position. [passage omitted]

Some Army elements believe there is a link between the rise in attempted terrorist attacks and the deportation of Hamas activists.

[Mordekhay] There have been repeated attempts by every element in the area to stage operations against the security zone, the SLA, and the IDF.

['Eden] Is the increase in Palestinian activity connected to the deportees affair, in your opinion?

[Mordekhay] I do not know exactly what it is connected to, but there is no doubt that processes in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world sometimes provide the terrorist organizations' additional motivation and an unyielding desire to harm IDF and SLA troops. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egyptian Sources on 'Understanding' With Syria

TA0601174893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry have confirmed that Israel and Syria have reached an understanding regarding an interim arrangement leading to a peace treaty. The sources say that Egypt mediated contacts between the two sides in Europe and Cairo late last summer. According to the plan, the interim arrangement would last five years, during which the permanent arrangements with Syria and the final settlement Israel is offering the Palestinians would be discussed. Syria has undertaken to curb the actions of Hizballah in southern Lebanon and to pull it back from positions close to the security zone during these five years. Israel would withdraw the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from certain points in the first ridge line [qav harekhes haqidmi] in the Golan Heights, while Syria would declare an end of the state of war.

Rabin's Office Denies Report

TA0601185793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Sources in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem told our political correspondent this evening that the report regarding an interim arrangement between Israel and Syria is totally baseless. Earlier, sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry confirmed that Israel and Syria had reached an understanding regarding an interim arrangement leading to a peace treaty. [passage omitted].

Eli Malka, chairman of the Golan Heights Settlements Committee, said the existence of a draft interim arrangement is not new to the Golan settlers, and they were the first to publicize this over two weeks ago. Malka told our correspondent Yo'av Aviv he has more details regarding this document. He claims that it has been agreed that Israel eventually will forego its sovereignty over the Golan Heights and agree to dismantle the settlements in this context. Malka claims it also was concluded with the Syrians that the draft would be presented for the first time during the next round of talks in Washington, after Bill Clinton enters the White House. The Golan Heights Settlements Committee believes the Rabin government is conducting salami tactics, gradually ceding small slices of territory to accustom the Israeli public and prevent it from reacting.

Syrian Contacts Limited to Talks

TA0701091993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning told Labor Knesset Member Avigdor Qahalani, who heads the lobby for the Golan Heights, that there are no contacts with the Syrians other than the talks in Washington. The prime minister said the Syrians continue to insist on a comprehensive arrangement on the Golan. In his conversation with the prime minister, Qahalani repeated his stand that the Golan Heights is a security asset that is important for Israel. This was reported by correspondent Yo'av Aviv.

Foreign Minister Denies Deal

TA0701115593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres touring northern Israel, by Shalom Oren—live]

[Text] [Oren] Good day, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Shalom.

[Oren] Over the past several days there have been new reports alleging that Israel and Syria held secret negotiations or finalized some agreements. Is this true?

[Peres] It is not true. The prime minister's bureau and the Foreign Ministry both issued a denial. We treat the truth and the denials with respect.

[Oren] At least one cabinet minister, I believe it was Construction and Housing Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, said yesterday that there is an arrangement with Syria. What will be the expected agreement with Syria?

[Peres] This has no basis. We are still adhering to our previous stand that the Syrians first must provide answers to two questions: One: How do they perceive peace, not just as a divine definition, but as a down-to-earth reference? That is to say: Will there be embassies? Will there be open borders? The second issue pertains to security arrangements. After all, even an agreement on territory will have to blend the concept of peace with security arrangements. We definitely agreed that when discussing security, we are talking of security for both parties, the Syrians and us.

[Oren] Can we still be optimistic? At the end of the last round of talks, we were optimistic; are we still at the same situation?

[Peres] No. I believe that in the last round of talks, we started from a much farther point than where we will start next time. I believe that this time, when the talks renew, we will start from a much closer point than before.

[Oren] What is that point?

[Peres] The point is that both parties address the issues, at least in a general manner. The Syrians will refer to peace; we will address the issue of withdrawal. This was not the situation in the past.

[Oren] Do you believe that the deportee affair will not harm Syrian willingness?

[Peres] I hope that we will find arrangements for the issue of deportees as well.

[Oren] Do you believe this story is dying on the world media?

[Peres] It will live a little longer, but we maintain a very serious attitude to the UN Security Council and the International Red Cross. I hope arrangements will be found that will remove this issue from the agenda.

[Oren] Foreign Minister Peres, thank you very much.

[Peres] Thank you.

Ultimatum to Iraq Said Not of Direct Concern

TA0701054493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The United States and its allies in the Gulf war have given Iraq a 48-hour ultimatum to remove its missiles from the southern areas and to stop surveillance of the allies' planes with their radar systems. The Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations was notified about the ultimatum last night at around midnight local time. [passage omitted]

Israel is monitoring the developments in southern Iraq. Israeli Defense Force sources have said, however, that the matter does not directly concern us. At the moment, it is taking place at a distance from us. The missiles to which the ultimatum refers are surface-to-air missiles which pose a threat to the U.S. planes in southern Iraq but have no relevance for us and, at this stage, we need do nothing.

Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that before the ultimatum to Iraq was made public, the U.S. State Department notified Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who informed Prime Minister Rabin about the anticipated U.S. moves.

Peres Sees No Developments in Iraqi Situation

TA0701114793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Report by Menahem Horowitz, correspondent in the north]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he doubts that Saddam Husayn will provoke the Americans again. He said the Iraqis will either cave in or get clobbered. I am not so sure they are too excited about getting whacked once again. The foreign minister was asked whether the U.S. policy will persist, even after President Bush leaves the White House:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I believe that Bush's policy will persist in the future. The world does not want an Iraq armed with missiles and nonconventional weapons invading other countries and threatening peace. Nobody wants such a situation. The policy against an aggressive, expansionist, and threatening Iraq will, in my view, continue in the future.

[Horowitz] Sir, to what extent can Israel again be involved if there is U.S. involvement in Iraq?

[Peres] I do not want to put the cart before the horse. I doubt whether there will be any development. I suggest we sit back quietly and wait and see how things develop and then make any decisions. [end recording]

Resumption of Talks, Deportees' Return Noted

TA0601181093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese Communist Party, says 'Arafat gave him his personal commitment that the Palestinians would not resume the peace talks until the deportees are returned. Western sources in Khartoum say that an envoy of Iran's President Rafsanjani participated in a meeting between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and PLO people organized by al-Turabi in Khartoum. The envoy warned the PLO people they would lose their support in the territories if they continued their policy of concessions.

On the other hand, Nabil Sha'th, one of the moderate PLO leaders, said he does not rule out the possibility of the Palestinians participating in the next round of talks in February, even if Israel refuses to return the deportees. Sha'th told the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI that the two issues should be handled separately.

Rabin Criticizess Alleged EC Trade Discrimination

TA0601202093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has sharply attacked the EC which, he said, discriminates against Israel in trade ties. Mr. Rabin was addressing a conference of the umbrella organization of Israeli high-tech industries. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that earlier, Yitzhaq Rabin addressed the deportees affair given the impending arrival of another UN envoy in Israel:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I am not ruffled by pictures shown on television or by other similar things; it will pass. Nothing is older than yesterday's newspaper—and I hope there are no journalists present.

[Sukenik] But journalists, as well as the new EC ambassador in Israel, were indeed present when Rabin launched an unprecedented attack: How can one talk with the EC? There is talk of free competition, yet odd distortions are preserved in trade ties with Israel. This reality must be rectified, he said.

[Rabin] In 1991, our purchases in Europe stood at $9 billion, and our sales stood at $4.5 billion. An addition of a mere billion in exports means 15,000 to 20,000 jobs. It is high time Europe changed its attitude, because Israel too has the option of buying elsewhere, and $9 billion a year is not a trifle in Europe either. [end recording]

Cabinet Says Stand on Deportees 'Not Negotiable'

NC0701071493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Cabinet, which met yesterday under Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, reiterated Lebanon's refusal to receive the Palestinian deportees, affirming that this position is not negotiable under any circumstances.

The Cabinet discussed the Chamber of Deputies' recommendation to call for an Arab summit meeting and instructed Prime Minister al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Buwayz to hold the necessary preliminary Arab contacts at the meeting of Arab League Council foreign ministers and to maintain contacts on the Arab and international levels.

Foreign Minister Buwayz has stated that world reaction to the deportations remains timid. In a statement to the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH, Buwayz asked: Where are the human rights and why are they spoken of only in certain countries? Buwayz noted that the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo on 11 January will seek to submit a request to the Security Council to set a timetable and a mechanism for action to implement Security Council Resolution 799. He pointed out that the deportees issue had disturbed the peace talks and their participants.

Report on Preparations Made for Deportees Denied

NC0701094293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] A security source has denied a local private radio report citing the Israeli attorney general's office that local societies in south Lebanon are preparing to absorb the deportees in various parts of Lebanon. The source said the report is unfounded.

The Palestinian deportees have declared a day's fast to conserve food.

Heavy rain has flooded some tents and strong winds have uprooted others.

Responding to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, affirmed that Rabin does not care about the simplest human rights—food, medicine, and water.

Deported Jihad Leader on Differences With Hamas

NC0601133993 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Dec 92 p 4

[Report by Tariq Abu-Hamdan from the deportees' "Jerusalem Camp," Lebanon]

[Text] AL-SAFIR met Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, media spokesman for the deported Islamic Jihad members in the "Jerusalem Camp" [in Marj al-Zuhur], who replied to questions on his movement's stand on dialogue with the PLO and the Arab regimes, on Palestinian participation in the "peace negotiations," and the points of agreement and disagreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on these questions.

Answering a question, Shaykh al-Shami said: "We may agree or disagree with Hamas on these issues; they adopt a certain stand on dealing with Arab regimes and on participation in elections and parliaments. They have nothing against dialogue with any Arab regime or with the PLO. We in the Islamic Jihad Movement believe Arab regimes are no different from one another. We do not see any possibility for change through the parliamentary institutions. We think these institutions are controlled by the authorities and their mass media. By involving ourselves, we become a wheel in the machine that serves the authority, despite our claim that we seek change. This is a clear point of difference with Hamas, which does not object to dialogue with the PLO or to sharing functions with it. For instance, Hamas demands having 40 members in the Palestine National Council to participate in the PLO leadership. We stress the need to distinguish between the Islamic approach and the nationalist, secular approach."

Al-Shami added: "Hamas thinks it can influence the Palestinian stand through dialogue. It can do that, of course, but we believe dialogue with the PLO will not change its stand, because the PLO's institutions are bigger, better able to deal with the various systems, and linked with many Arab regimes, where politics and interests are concerned."

Addressing PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the conferees in Tunis, al-Shami said: "Our stand emphasizes the need to withdraw immediately from the ongoing negotiations and the settlement project. Over a year has passed without reaching any results. We knew from the outset that dialogue with Israel is futile under the prevailing conditions. Israel has control, strength, and weapons; it has the world and Western media on its side. We appeal to our brothers to study history well, to understand the mentality they are up against, and to withdraw immediately. The alternative to dialogue is what former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin stated in his book The Rebellion: 'I fight, I exist; I have the power, I carry weight; if I lack power I lack weight. So power becomes the measure of change.' As long as we Palestinians do not have the power, we can neither change anything nor force our enemy to accept our position. This prompts us all to seek power."

Responding to a question on the impact this difference of views will have on common existence in the "Jerusalem Camp," he said: "There is no difference on the general questions relating to the camp's media statements, appeals to health organizations, requests for

assistance, and efforts to pile on the pressure to get us back home. But our agreement with Hamas on these issues does not mean we fully agree with it on external issues; we support our movement's stand that rejects going to Tunis and meeting the PLO."

Shaykh al-Shami added: "We try and so do they to avoid our differences reflecting on our reality here. After all, we are brothers who share the same creed. There is a joint media committee chaired by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi. A statement distributed among journalists in the name of the Islamic Jihad Movement the day before yesterday belongs to the movement; Dr. al-Rantisi was not entitled to read it, but we believed he should read it for ethical reasons."

Shaykh al-Shami contended that "The UN stand on the Palestinian issue is unfair." He addressed the international organization by saying: "We repeatedly observed the United Nations as it dealt unjustly with the Palestinian issue in its many aspects. It issued many resolutions but failed to follow them up. It never attempted to use force to implement these resolutions, although we saw it display its power and implement its resolutions by force elsewhere; we watched it use force in the service of the arrogant powers in Somalia and against Iraq in the Gulf. Why does the United Nations fail to issue a resolution to use force against Israel, which turns its back on the entire world and respects none?"

Al-Shami appealed to the United Nations to "Show seriousness, even once, so as not to lose people's confidence."

He commented on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's refusal to give the camp access to relief aid via the Zummarayya crossing. He said: "Rabin is a criminal who is indifferent to all human norms and values. He threw us into the open without a pang of remorse. We will not be surprised by any conduct he might pursue. We neither plead with Rabin nor ask him to send us food. We only appeal to everyone to pile on the pressure to send us back. We do not need food; we need to see our folks, sons, and mothers. Israel is pressuring to turn our case from a question of return into an issue of food access. It falsifies reality and blames Lebanon. The United Nations should pile on the pressure to send us back, not to give us access to food."

On the chances of coordinating with the [Lebanese] Islamic resistance should their stay in the Camp continue for long, Shaykh al-Shami said: "This is premature. Israel has fixed the duration of the exile. We do not want to give it the justification to leave us here indefinitely, but if the deportation becomes final, we will have other alternatives. This is what everybody is thinking about and they know where they are going."

Deportees Welcome UN's 'More Serious' Moves

NC0701084793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has expressed his belief that international moves by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and the response by France and the European states look more serious than ever. He said Israel will ultimately submit to international legality and added: The solution acceptable to us must be in line with the UN Security Council resolution and must secure our return home. He added: We will not accept any solutions advanced by Israel to the new UN envoy—who will visit the occupied territories today—that conflict with that proposal.

In remarks to reporters in the Marj al-Zuhur area, al-Rantisi added: We also reject any proposals to refer our case to the Israeli Supreme Court, because we do not trust this court. We believe such a measure would be an attempt to circumvent UN Security Council Resolution 799, he said.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, spokesman for the Islamic Jihad deportees, has described Butrus-Ghali's statement as a positive step, but said it is not enough. He added: We want him to move from warnings to deeds. He noted that the longer the issue drags on the more it will favor Israel and the more we will suffer. He called for a Security Council meeting to adopt a decision compelling Israel to implement Resolution 799.

Israel Said To Reinforce Presence at Zummarayya

NC0701072293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Israel has reinforced its military presence at the Zummarayya crossing point, bringing in additional forces and establishing several fortifications.

The move was preceded by Israeli attacks against Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Meeting With Clinton Representative 'Positive'

PM0601155393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 4-10 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Well-informed diplomatic sources have said that a high-level secret meeting was held last month between a Syrian official and a figure representing U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. They added that it dealt with three specific issues: Developments in the peace process, the situation in Lebanon, and the future of U.S.-Syrian relations. The sources emphasized that the Syrian side considered this meeting more "positive" and "advanced" than the previous contacts conducted between Damascus and some figures close to Clinton. The sources added that these figures stressed that the new U.S. president "respects and appreciates the positive stances taken by President Hafiz al-Asad at the peace process level."

Vice President, Premier Receive Qatari Minister

JN0601144193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari, minister of information and culture in Qatar, and his accompanying delegation at noon today.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and the Qatari ambassador in Damascus. Discussion focused on Arab issues and bilateral relations.

The Qatari minister and his delegation earlier called on Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The information minister and the Qatari ambassador also attended that meeting. Al-Kuwari conveyed to the prime minister greetings from the amir, heir apparent, and prime minister of Qatar. The two sides discussed bilateral relations.

Al-Asad Receives Qatari Minister

JN0601155493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus—At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari, Qatari minister of information and culture. Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman attended the meeting.

Dr. al-Kuwari relayed to his excellency the president the greetings of Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. His excellency the president asked him to relay his greetings and best wishes to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah and the fraternal Qatari people. Talks dealt with fraternal Syrian-Qatari relations.

Armenian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN0601181793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit of several days to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Armenian foreign minister was welcomed upon arrival at Damascus' international airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the head of the Eastern Europe Department and the chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Armenian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

In a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Kirakosyan expressed pleasure over his visit to Arab Syria. He paid tribute to the traditionally strong ties existing between the Syrian Arab people and the Armenian people. He stressed the need to promote and enhance these ties, saying that Armenia—leadership, government, and people—particularly Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, attaches great importance to the historic ties it is maintaining with Syria and the Arab states.

Afghanistan

Fighting Continues in Kabul; Casualties Reported

LD0701114893 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that the war between the forces of the Islamic Unity Party [Wahdat-e Eslami] and [Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's] Supervisory Council [Shura-e Nezar] has been continuing intensively for two days now. The war has spread to the Chindawal, Jada-e Maywand, and Mondehi [central Kabul city] areas. Many people have been killed and injured on both sides during the clashes.

The report adds that the Islamic Unity Party forces have the upper hand in this war.

In a separate report, our correspondent says the war between the Islamic Unity Party and the Supervisory Council forces is widening every day and has now spread to Dehmazang [west of Kabul] and Shar-e Naw [western-central Kabul] areas. The battles, which are continuing sporadically, began yesterday at 0900. Heavy and light weapons are being used by both sides.

The report adds that both sides have suffered heavy loss of life and material.

Defense Ministry Damaged

BK0701095893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] KABUL, Jan 7 (AFP)—The Afghan Defence Ministry building in Kabul was shelled by heavy artillery Thursday [7 January] during a rebel bombardment of the capital.

The shells missed the building but the explosions and flying splinters blew out all the windows and wounded four soldiers.

"That bloody bastard Hekmatyar was responsible," cursed a senior Afghan Army general, referring to Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the rebel Hezb-e Eslami faction.

He said a Russian-made 130 mm D-30 field gun firing high-explosive charges had been responsible for the terrific blasts that left small craters in the ground but sent shards of jagged steel through every window in the five-storey building.

One round landed inside the Defence Ministry complex itself and a second 50 metres (yards) distant in a carpark, smashing trees and wrecking the security post guarding the ministry.

The shells were part of a six-round barrage that landed in Kabul between 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

The explosions sent ministry personnel running for safety in the semi-darkness of the basement, leaving their glass-littered offices deserted.

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was not present during the attack.

Rabbani Talks With Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister

LD0601193793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Bornahoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, met this morning with Mr. Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the Golkhana Palace of the presidency.

BAKHTAR reoprts that during the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Mohayoddin Najafi, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Borujerdi first delivered a message of congratulation from Islamic Republic of Iran President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He wished further successes for the esteemed president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan in service to the mojahed and Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Expressing appreciation and thanks for the message of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani considered the strengthening of relations between the Muslim and fraternal people of the two countries as valuable. Topics of interest were also discussed.

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Bangladesh

Commentary on Growing Regional Nuclear Tension

BK0601140793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 23 Dec 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Open Nuclear Diplomacy"]

[Text] Former Indian Army Chief General Krishna Swami Sunderji has expressed his views regarding growing nuclear tension in the subcontinent in his INDIAN EXPRESS article. He believes that immediately after President-elect Bill Clinton takes office, tremendous pressure will be exerted on India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—NPT. For this reason, he has recommended open discussions on India's nuclear stand. Needless to say, international quarters believe that India has a stockpile of 100 nuclear bombs. Of course, India has denied these claims, although it gave wide publicity to its nuclear test conducted in 1974. New Delhi says that its nuclear research is for peaceful purposes only. Despite this, India is neither signing the NPT nor allowing its nuclear installations to be inspected by international observers. Earlier, officials in New Delhi used to refer to China in this regard. But now

China is a signatory to the NPT. Observers believe that due to Pakistan's progress in the nuclear field, India is sticking to its stand despite requests from the United States, Japan, and other countries. However, Pakistan has said that it is willing to sign the NPT if New Delhi does so. On the other hand, Islamabad has offered an alternate proposal regarding a coordinated treaty which would be signed by the United States, Russia, China, India, and Pakistan. But India is also not agreeing to this proposal.

Under these circumstances, General Sunderji has advised New Delhi to hold free and frank discussions on the nuclear issue. It may be mentioned that the foreign secretary of Pakistan, during his visit to Washington last February, admitted that Pakistan has the capability to produce nuclear bombs; but he added that they do not yet possess the bomb. Against the backdrop of this diplomacy of the two countries, General Sunderji has warned that misperceptions regarding nuclear capability may lead to a tragedy in the subcontinent by launching nuclear attacks against each other. It may be mentioned that during the cold war era, both the United States and the Soviet Union knew that the other possessed nuclear bombs. Observers believe that for this reason the third world war did not break out during the time of the 'Berlin Wall' or the 'Cuban Missile Crisis.' At that time, Soviet leader Krushchev openly said that the third world war would not break out until a madman came to power either in Moscow or Washington. This means that both countries were aware each others destructive capability. Despite this, both superpowers were very concerned about the possibility of pressing the nuclear button by mistake. Apart from this, the Chernobyl disaster frightened the entire world. After this incident different Western countries called for protecting nuclear reactors in Russia.

Under these circumstances, all concerned should take into consideration whether the hue and cry over nuclear installations in India and Pakistan is logical or not. Experts believe that they should either sign the NPT or allow inspections of their well-preserved nuclear installations by an international team. If an arrangement for international inspections can be made, it is possible to overcome the fear of another Chernobyl-type accident. Everyone sincerely wants to be relieved of fears about a recurrence of Hiroshima, or a similar mishap, in Asia.

India

Security Forces Blamed in Kashmir Violence, Deaths

BK0701123493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Sopor, India, Jan 7 (AFP)—Thousands of Kashmiri Muslims staged anti-India demonstrations and went on strike on Thursday [7 January] to protest the massacre by Indian security forces of at least 42 civilians in this northern town.

A Kashmiri politician charged in New Delhi that up to 72 men and women died when paramilitary troops, responding to an ambush by Muslim militants, opened random fire and set dozens of shops and houses ablaze in Sopor on Wednesday.

Kashmir government officials said the fire was started by a stray bullet which ignited an explosives cache stored by Muslim militants in a house.

Residents said at least 42 people died, 100 people were injured, and many were missing.

It was one of the worst incidents of carnage blamed on the security forces in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, where Muslim guerrillas have been waging a bloody separatist campaign for nearly four years.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao ordered Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, a Kashmiri, to fly to the state bordering Pakistan. The Kashmir administration announced a separate investigation.

Residents dug out three charred bodies from shops in the presence of reporters here Thursday. Thirty-nine others were buried shortly after the massacre, which officials in Srinagar described as "unfortunate."

Somes houses and shops were still smouldering.

Thousands of angry residents defied a curfew and snow and took to the streets here Thursday, waving black flags, screaming anti-India abuse and shouting slogans demanding independence for Kashmir.

Local officials and residents said the Border Security Force (BSF) went on the rampage after Muslim guerrillas ambushed one of their patrols, killing one man and snatching their light machine guns.

A witness said the BSF personnel, some shouting "Long live Mother India," opened random fire in the main shopping centre, locked people in shops and then set them on fire after pouring kerosene.

Zahoor Hussain Khan, a teacher, said he saw four brothers being gunned down.

Another man, Nooruddin, who lost his son when his house was torched, cried: "Look what they have done to me."

Sopor district magistrate M.Y. Andrabi said trouble broke out after a deafening bomb blast at 8:45 a.m. (0315 GMT), followed by a gunbattle between the guerrillas and the BSF troops.

"This led to indiscriminate firing," Andrabi said. "The BSF personnel simply went berserk and began burning vehicles, shops and houses."

Residents said the shooting and arson went on for four hours, and and a movie theatre, three restaurants, 110

shops and 35 houses were torched. A car, a bus and two trucks were also set on fire, they said.

The BSF men were still deployed in Sopor, 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of Srinagar, as demonstrations raged Thursday.

"Narasimha Rao, down, down," shouted the protestors. Others mocked the border guards saying "Sinners, murderers, leave Kashmir."

The Press Trust of India reported protests in all major towns throughout the Kashmir valley, where thousands have died in the secessionist campaign.

The valley also observed a spontaneous general strike, which shut shops, offices and educational institutions.

"The incident is unfortunate and a high-level commission is inquiring," Kashmir police chief B.S. Bedi told a press conference in Srinagar.

Bedi did not say how many died in Sopor, known for its apple orchards.

Sopor is a stronghold of the Hezb-ql Mujahideen, one of the numerous Kashmir separatist groups, and Indian troops moving to the border with Pakistan have repeatedly been ambushed nearby.

In New Delhi, Saifuddin Soz, who represented Sopor in parliament for 10 years, called the deaths "genocide" and said 72 people died in the blaze.

BSF director general T. Anantachari left for Srinagar to investigate. But PTI said Azad, the minister ordered by Rao to go to Kashmir, had postponed his trip because of "tension" in the area.

Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena visited Sopor and described Wednesday's arson as "shameful." He warned that those involved in indiscriminate attacks on civilian homes would not go unpunished.

"The incident was a shameful one and the culprits involved will not be spared," Saxena, New Delhi's chief representative in the federally ruled province, told reporters.

Officials said that despite assurances by Premier Rao, relief measures have not begun for those affected by the incident, adding that residents who lost their homes were living in the open in sub-zero temperatures.

Relief Announced for Sopor Victims

BK0701163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced a relief of 1 lakh rupees each to the next of the kin of those killed in yesterday's fire incident at Sopor. Relief will also be given to the extent of 50 percent of damaged property subject to a maximum of 1 lakh rupees to those whose property has been damaged. This was announced by the governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, in Sopor today. He said a thorough inquiry by an independent and responsible officer will be held to establish the circumstances in which lives and property were lost.

Thity-nine bodies have so far been recovered from the site of the incident. One person succumbed to the injuries today. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, has expressed shock and anguish at the loss of human life and property. In a statement in New Delhi, he appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to maintain calm and harmony in this hour of grief.

Leaders of several political parties have demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident and early distribution of relief to the victims. Professor Bhim of the Panther's Party, Professor Saifuddin Soz and Professor Bashir Kuchlu of the National Conference, and J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] pradesh [state] Congress-I chief Mr. G.R. Kar have in separate incidents condemned the incident. The CPI [Communist Party of India] in a statement in New Delhi has demanded that a parliamentary delegation headed by the home minister, including representatives from all political parties, should visit Sopor and probe the incident.

New 'Hindu-Muslim Violence' in Bombay Reported

BK0701000893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1849 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 6 (AFP)—At least three people were killed and more than 20 injured in new Hindu-Muslim violence linked in Bombay and another town in western India, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday [6 January].

Police opened fire to break up rival community groups who resorted to stonethrowing late Wednesday in Bombay's Pydhoni, Null Bazar, Bhendi Bazar and Dongri areas.

PTI said 25 people were injured, but gave no details.

The affected areas were placed under a night curfew.

Wednesday's violence erupted after two men were killed in stabbings when a mob attacked a warehouse, and in another incident elsewhere in the business city a pedicare driver was hacked to death overnight Tuesday.

Police did not say what caused the fresh flare-up, but other sources said it was connected with the destruction of the 16th century Babri mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics December 6.

In Gujarat state's Baroda town two people were wounded in stabbings in Moti Koral village outside that state's industrial town of Baroda Wednesday, PTI reported separately.

Police opened fire to quell violence in which 18 houses, three cars and two motorised rickshaws were set on fire by the rioters who also pelted each other with stones, the news agency said. [passage omitted]

BJP Reported Responsible

BK0701074693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] In a fresh outbreak of violence, two buses, two temples and one shop was set ablaze in Bhendi Bazar area of South Bombay last night. A few cases of stabbing have also been reported. The outbreak of violence has been attributed to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiva Sena congregation at several vulnerable points as a protest against performance of namaz [muslim prayers] on roads. Police have confirmed four deaths during the last 48 hours.

Security Tightened After Riots

BK0701125393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, security measures in all the communally-sensitive areas of the metropolis have been tightened in view of the fresh wave of violence. Police sources said 12 people are feared killed and 50 others injured in the violence which erupted yesterday. However, only seven deaths have been confirmed so far. Night curfew has been reimposed in five police circles. Army and police are patrolling the affected areas and other sensitive areas. Suburban train services along the western and central railway sectors are plying normally.

Russia's Yeltsin To Pay 3-Day Official Visit

BK0601123893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, is arriving in New Delhi on the 27th of this month on a three-day official visit. Announcing this, an official spokesman said several agreements are likely to be signed during the visit. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Yeltsin will be having a wide range of talks with Indian leaders.

Commentary on Importance of Yeltsin's Visit

BK0701035193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Commentary by journalist N. Chakroberty]

[Text] Mr. Boris Yeltsin's arrival in New Delhi, the day after India celebrates the 43d anniversary of its emergence as a republic, is a long and eagerly awaited event. India invited the Russian president soon after he took over, but Mr. Yeltsin has had to put off his visit for one reason or another. Only three weeks ago, he cut short his visit to China and hurried back home to stave off what was suspected by some as a putsch. Mr. Yeltsin rose to power in 1991 on the ruins of the once mighty USSR. The collapse of the USSR has solved some problems, but created many new ones. The ever worsening economic crisis threatens to plunge Russia into a chaos. The Russian president is struggling against heavy odds to save the Russian people from economic ruin. However, the successful conclusion of START II has given Mr. Yeltsin a shot in the arm. The treaty he signed with the outgoing U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, in Moscow earlier this week will a major difference between peace and war in a world which has often been on the brink of disaster over the last four decades.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision to take time off in the midst of his crowded schedule to visit India at this time reflects the high priority he attaches to Russia's relations with this country. The collapse of the Soviet Union has evidently changed the structure of relations between India and the republics which constituted it. But the foundations are strong enough to withstand pressures of change and allow for structural adjustments. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that both India and Russia have begun to take a fresh look at the ties that bind them together. The former Soviet Union had over the years overtaken many countries to emerge as one of India's leading trade partners. No effort should be be spared to restore trade ties to the earlier levels. The end of the Cold War and the transformation of Eastern Europe's communist states into western style democracies have made adjustments between Russia and its friends and allies inevitable. It should not, therefore, cause any surprise that the India-Soviet Treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation drawn up in 1971 will shed some of its provisions. In the new treaty, which President Yeltsin will sign during his Delhi visit, there will be no provision to come to each other's aid in the event of external aggression.

The problems that have arisen following the collapse of the Soviet Union are so overwhelming that only a naif will expect all of them to be sorted out in one visit. The refixation of the rupee-ruble exchange rate to iron out differences over the settlement of all dues is a formidable problem calling for strenuous efforts on both sides.

Month-Long Curfew Lifted From Ayodhya, Faizabad

BK0601160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, curfew has been lifted from Ayodhya and Faizabad following improvement in the situation. Indefinite curfew was imposed on the 6th of last month following violent incidents in Ayodhya.

Commentary Accuses Bangladesh of Interfering

BK0601123593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Commentary by journalist Harish N. Das: "Provocations From Bangladesh on Ayodhya"]

[Text] The Government of India was left with no option except to tell firmly to Bangladesh to stop foolhardy provocations from its territory, be it Chakmas [tribals of Chittagong], illegal migrants, smugglers, or so-called marchers and strike calls on what happens inside India. Bangladesh will have to stop interfering in the internal matters of India, earlier the wiser. The Dhaka to Ayodhya long march by fundamentalists was bound to end in fiasco as no government, what the name, would allow violations of its borders in that shameless manner.

Bangladesh has no business to protest in whatever form on what happens in India. Indian citizens, much less Indian Muslims, do not need any support, whether material or moral, from foolhardy fundamentalists of Bangladesh or Pakistan on whether we need to build a mosque or not and where. It is an unacceptable interference in India's internal affairs. Good, some 30,000 marchers were stopped some 20 kms from the Indian border at Jessore at a small price of five to six casualties. Had they gone over to Indian borders the price would have been much higher. The Dhaka government could have taken stern action when some 40,000 people had gathered at Dhaka for the march. Timely action could have saved not only the five lives lost in police firing, but also it would have created goodwill between the two countries.

The march was organized by Jamaat-i-Islami and the Freedom Party, both fundamentalists and have been whipping up communal passions in that country. The sole aim was to keep the issue under international spotlight and extract maximum publicity out of it. These fundamentalists forgot that the uncalled for and unwanted interference would only result in the hardening of attitudes on both sides. In fact, this has embarrassed the moderate Indian Muslims.

These fundamentalists have been lying low as they could not recover from the public exposure of their anti-Bangladesh behavior during the country's liberation struggle. The destruction of temples in Bangladesh and long march was only to drum up popular support. It was these fundamentalists who had opposed the independence of Bangladesh and separation from Pakistan. No wonder, some of them, especially Jamaat-i-Islami, is now working at the behest of Islamabad.

The timing of the march is also significant in the light of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit on January the 13th and 14th. In fact, Jamaat-i-Islami has been encouraging terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab for quite some time, always trying to encash in the religious sentiments. But what is surprising is the long rope given by Bangladeshi Government of Begum Khaleda Zia for burning and looting property belonging to minorities besides demolishing temples in the week-long rioting there. What happened in Ayodhya was not a state-sponsored despite it being a disputed one. But the same cannot be said about the incidents in Pakistan and Bangladesh which led to the demolition of hundreds of temples and razing to the ground of thousands of houses.

How would Bangladesh react if similar march is organized by some Indians to Dhaka against demolition of temples and against ill- treatment of minorities there. Dhaka regime was bent upon creating trouble even earlier. Thousands of Hindus had to flee from Bangladesh because of inhuman persecution. Separatist groups like ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] are provided sanctuary there. India has also had to feed the people escaping the wrath of security forces in Chittagong hills. Bangladesh has also refused to take back the refugees who have sneaked into India over the years. India has been overlooking all this in the interests of good-neighborly relations. Even an offer of Tin Bigha corridor by India was a step in this direction. What is regrettable is the size of the crowd, both when it left the capital and when it reached Jessore, the nearest point to the Indian border, which shows that considerable mobilization had gone into the whole exercise to malign India.

The Bangladeshi president belittled himself and the office he is holding by giving reference to Ayodhya in his customary address to the winter session of parliament on the same day the fundamentalists began their march. Seen together, all this constitutes an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of India which no sovereign and self-respecting nation would tolerate. It must be made clear to both Pakistan and Bangladesh that those who sit in glass houses should not throw stones at others.

Bhutan King Concludes 'Very Successful' Visit

BK0701080993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The king of Bhutan, Jigme Singhye Wangchuk, has described his visit to India as very successful. Talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] before leaving for Thimpu, the king said signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries about the Sankosh multipurpose project reflects the complete trust and friendship between Bhutan and India. The king said when the project is complete, Bhutan will be able to sell 1,520 megawatt electricity generated by the project to India. Describing the project as a friendship project, the king said it will be the biggest project in South Asia and one of the top 10 in Asia.

The king was given a ceremonious send off at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and several central ministers were among those present at the ceremony.

Commentary on Importance of START II Treaty

BK0601145593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Commentary by defense analyst Captain C. Udai Bhaskar]

[Text] The signing of the START II treaty by the U.S. President, Mr. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Yeltsin, yesterday marks the end of the cold war in more ways than one. START or Strategic Arms Reduction Talks were central to the cold war deliberations and the first major breakthrough was achieved in July 1991 when President Bush and the then president of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Mr. Gorbachev, concluded a truly historic treaty, START I. With the signing of START II, the principal adversaries of the cold war have agreed to cut down their arsenals of strategic nuclear weapons from an all time high of over 23,000 warheads in 1990 to a more reasonable level of 6,500 by the year 2003. The cold war has really come full circle, for this is the level at which the United States and the Soviet Union had maintained parity in 1960's.

Whether the world is more safe or less dangerous with 6,500 warheads as opposed to 23,000 warheads is part of the Alice in Wonderland logic that characterized the cold war. But, one thing is clear after START II, all arms reduction talks will be held in a post-cold war context with little parity between the two former adversaries.

The other reason why START II marks the end of the cold war environment is that President Bush, under whose leadership the two treaties were signed, will soon be laying down office. The Bush tenure symbolizes the end of the cold war in American presidency and the timing of START II was accelerated to facilitate a grand Bush finale on global issues as he prepares to leave the White House. Similar domestic political compulsions apply to President Yeltsin as well and the signing of START II is being interpreted differently by different sections in Moscow. The supporters of START II maintain that this gesture will force the other nuclear weapon states of the former USSR—Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine—to quickly ratify the treaty and accept a non-nuclear status. On the other hand, opponents of START II in Moscow opine that the clauses of the treaty impose far deeper cuts on the Soviet arsenal and that the ceiling accepted by President Yeltsin as regards land-based ballistic missiles will permanently erode Russian strategic capability. While this is a fact, it is unlikely that the Russian parliament will be able to oppose START II given the economic vulnerability of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Be that as it may, the signing of START II paves the way for post-START deliberations, as there are many nuclear nuances in the post-cold war environment. By retaining their strategic arsenals at the level suggested, namely 3,500 warheads for the United States and 3,000 warheads for Russia, the global community is tacitly endorsing and legitimizing the need for nuclear weapons. This is a signal that could be differently interpreted by nations, and the basic validity and the rationale for nuclear weapons needs to be addressed now that the cold war has been formally buried. Herein lies the deeper relevance of START II.

Kerala Chief Disagrees With Colleague on IUML

BK0601163093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The Kerala chief minister, Mr. Karunakaran, has said that 22 years of association with the Indian Union Muslim League [IUML] had in no way eroded the Congress-I's credibility. He made the observation when asked by newsmen in Trivandrum to comment on the Bihar Congress-I leader, Dr. Jagannath Mishra's reported statement on the party's relations with the IUML.

Congress Units Asked To Implement Plan Against Communalism

BK0601130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The Congress-I has asked its pradesh [state] committees to implement vigorously the party's three-pronged action plan to fight communalism. All PCC-I's [Pradesh Congress Committee-I] have been asked to hold meetings by the 15th of this month to chalk out the strategy. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi that the Congress-I has decided to bring out booklets and pamphlets on Ayodhya-related developments.

Finance Minister on Results of Fiscal Program

BK0601161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says the program of fiscal consolidation and structural reforms has yielded the expected results till now. He stated this at a pre-budget meeting with eminent economists in New Delhi today. The minister said the balance of payments position has been stabilized and inflation has come down. Dr. Manmohan Singh said exports are growing and industrial production is beginning to recover. The economists suggested that a time-bound plan be chalked out to phase out subsidies.

Minister Says Inflation Rate Drops to 8.9 Percent

BK0701094093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The union minister of state for heavy industries, Mr. P.K. Thungon, has said that the inflation rate in the country has come down to 8.9 percent this year against 16 percent last year due to the new economic policies of the government. Addressing a Youth Congress-I rally in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Thungon said the country's economy will stabilize when the new policies are fully implemented.

UK Bank Implicated for Illegal Transfer of Funds

BK0701032093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] chairman, Mr. Ramnivas Mirdha, has said that the Standard Chartered Bank had illegally remitted more than 4 crore rupees worth of foreign exchange to Britain against rupee payments in its Indian branch. Talking to reporters in New Delhi last night, Mr. Mirdha said the Enforcement Directorate is separately investigating whether these funds are being diverted for financing terrorist activities.

Mr. Mirdha also said two more nationalized banks appear to have siphoned off huge amounts to the Bombay stock broker Hiten Dalal. He said the Andhra Bank and the Kanara Bank had received funds from public sector undertakings and foreign banks at a very high interest. The top management of these two banks appeared before the JPC yesterday. Mr. Mirdha said the JPC has taken over the files of the Oil Industry Development Board relating to its investments under the portfoilio management scheme for close scrutiny. This follows huge deposits made in the Kanara Bank by the board. The son of the petroleum minister, Mr. B. Shakaranand, is the director of the bank. Mr. Mirdha quoted the bank officials as claiming that they had not used the influence of the minister's son in getting the funds. He said the (Can) Mutual Fund has committed several irregularities. The wife of the secretary of the Economic Affairs Ministry, Mr. Muntekh Singh Ahluwalia, was the trustee of the fund till June last year. Mr. Ramnivas Mirdha reported that the management of both the Andhra and Kanara Banks have admitted that they did not act on the RBI [Reserve Bank] guidelines, neither are they pursuing the vigilance inquiries. He said the Finance Ministry has since clarified that the departmental inquiries initiated by the nationalized banks will continue even as the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is seized of the matter.

'Uncertainty' Over Carrier Acquisition Viewed

BK0701024393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Dec 92 p 11

[By Pravin Sawhney]

[Text] New Delhi—Defence Minister Sharad Pawar's going back on his commitment has resulted in uncertainty over Navy's plan to acquire an aircraft carrier. The reason is not shortage of funds, but differences in opinion between the Ministry and Services headquarters, interestingly, on an operational matter!

As part of its 15 year perspective planning, the Navy, amongst other things, had projected a requirement for an aircraft carrier to the Government in November 1991. It was suggested that as Vikrant is to be moth-balled by 1997, it is possible to indigenously manufacture a 15,000 tonne carrier replacement at a cost of Rs [rupees] 900 crore. "And this too from within the services budget resources, unlike the move for the Air Force, where advanced jet trainers costing around Rs 3,000 crore are proposed to be funded from outside the services budgetary allocations," observed a senior officer.

All that is needed for indigenous aircraft carrier are alterations in designs already being worked in collaboration with Sofma of France, who had been contracted in 1989 for an aircraft carrier design. Moreover, France, Italy and Britain have expressed willingness for technical assistance in the project.

At a high level steering committee meeting in early September this year, presided by the Defence Minister and attended by the Defence Secretary and naval chief, among others, the project was cleared by Mr Pawar, in favour of any moves to purchase an aircraft carrier. It was explained to the Defence Minister that, irrespective of the cost, aircraft carriers with Russia and the Ukrainian Varyag, which are of over 35,000 tonnage, are operationally unsuitable for the navy. The requirement was a small aircraft carrier, which can carry upto 12 aircraft, as the best replacement for Vikrant, which embarks upto 22 aircraft.

Even dry docking facilities for an over 35,000 tons carrier are not available in any of the country's naval dockyards. Moreover, alongside berths and required depth in harbour are other grave problems likely to be encountered in case of purchasing a large aircraft carrier. The Karwar dockyard project, where such maintenance facilities have been planned, is no where in sight, because of paucity of funds. Only land has been acquired and cleared so far in Karwar. And, it does not behoove the biggest littoral navy in the region that its aircraft carrier be dry-docked in Singapore, the nearest available place with such facilities.

In a surprise move. however, after his recent Moscow visit in late September, the Defence Minister, under bureaucratic influence, is seriously considering the Russian offer.

Moscow has offered one of its large aircraft carriers from its Pacific fleet at Vladivostok. This offer has two advantages over the earlier Ukrainian Varyag proposal made earlier this year. First, the Black Sea fleet which houses Varyag is disputed and is under joint control of Russia and Ukraine till 1994. And, importantly, the Russians may accept even half of the estimated cost of Rs 3,000 crore, partly in foreign exchange and remaining through barter.

But, as the naval chief Admiral L. Ramdas is on record, having told a magazine recently that "Varyag is too big an aircraft carrier for the Indian navy".

Country To Export Iron Ore, Other Goods to PRC

BK0601132693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] India is to export 13 to 18 lakh tons of iron ore to China under a bilateral trade protocol for this year. Official sources indicate that the actual exports are likely to exceed this target. Other major commodities that India will be exporting to China include mineral ore, tobacco, engineering products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. India expects to import raw silk, silk yarn, coal and petroleum products from China. The trade protocol was signed in Beijing yesterday evening at the end of the fourth session of the India-China joint group on economic cooperation, trade, science and technology.

Trade in Ozone-Damaging Chemicals Banned

BK0601162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The government has issued two notifications banning import and export trade in certain ozone-damaging chemicals with countries which are not parties to the Montreal Protocol. India is a party to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the protective ozone layer. The protocol came into force in September last year. Import and export of the noted items with the countries which are parties to the Montreal Protocol however is permitted without a license.

'Gloom' in Tourism Industry After Ayodhya Unrest

BK0701031593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] New Delhi—The boom is rapidly turning into gloom in the tourism industry which is reeling under a spate of cancelled bookings following the sustained countrywide violence of the past week.

According to industry estimates, at least 25 per cent of tourists have scrapped their Indian holiday since the mosque came down at Ayodhya and if the law and order situation does not improve soon, this figure could go up to 50 per cent.

The two million visitors India was expecting to welcome in the current financial year are thus unlikely to come now and if the prophets of doom in the tourism sector are to be believed, they may not come for several more years.

As Mr Inder Sharma, Chairman and Managing Director of SITA World Travel, explained, "The impact of the turmoil will continue to be felt over the next 6 to 12 months. It is not easy to change the perception of the consumer. The steps that we need to take to reassure tourists cannot be taken in the present situation. Who would want to take their annual holiday here?"

He anticipates a loss of between Rs *[rupees] 18 crore and* Rs 20 crore for his agency over the next three months roughly half of what the projections had been. "Indian tourism is jinxed," he said sadly. "We are not destined to take our rightful place in the world community of tourism."

Lamented Mr O.P. Ahuja, President of the Indian Association of Tour Operators,"It was to have been the best season in the past two years. We would have crossed all previous records." Instead, travel agencies throughout the country are receiving telexes in hundreds from their worried counterparts abroad, some asking for advice on whether they should send tourist groups and some simply cancelling their bookings. Even Goa, which has any violence, is affected, he disclosed all the flights that landed there on Friday, for instance, were half empty.

The industry's woes have been compounded by the Indian Airlines pilots' strike which began on Wednesday [9 December] and is to continue till the end of the month. Even if tourists were to go ahead with their plans to holiday in India, the travel agencies are going up the wall trying to arrange for them to reach the destination of their choice. Flights have been rescheduled and capacity has been drastically whittled down, throwing the tourisn sector into a complete mess.

But perhaps the greatest damage to the sector has been caused by the advisories issued by the governments of the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom, cautioning their citizens not to visit the disturbed areas in India. These three countries alone account for 30 to 40 per cent of foreign arrivals here.

The news from the hotels is equally depressing. Welcomgroup reported a substantial drop in its bookings, crossing 50 per cent in the riot-affected towns of Agra and Jaipur. The Taj Group confirmed a 30 to 40 per cent cancellation rate in the northern region and 50 per cent in Bombay. The Oberoi Hotel General Manager, Mr Sanjeev Malhotra, could not give figures but admitted to a "visible drop" in bookings. "And we can see cancellations coming up ahead," he said.

Lamented Mr Ahuja,"The damage has been done to December and January. Most of the cancellations coming in are for these two months. Our objective now is to save February and March otherwise we'll have to write off the entire season."

On his suggestion, the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Mr Madhavrao Scindia, has set up an inter-ministerial monitoring committee to help salvage the situation. The committee is headed by the Minister of State for Tourism, Mrs Sukhbans Kaur, and includes the Secretaries of Tourism, Information and Broadcasting, Civil Aviation and External Affairs, as well as the heads of the travel organisations.

According to Mr Scindia, the committee will not only monitor the situation closely but will also formulate a

campaign to stress on the positive angles to counter the negative publicity at present.

He said he has also asked Indian Airlines to run regular flights on important tourism sectors such as Jodhpur, Jaipur and Varanasi so that the industry does not suffer.

In addition, the Tourism Department has sent out circulars to all of its offices abroad listing the areas which are not affected by violence so that they convince potential tourists to still come to India.

Despite these steps, however, the industry is in a state of despair for the only thing that can change the downward curve is political stability.

Iran

Editorial Argues for 'Sovereignty' Over Bahrain

NC0601151093 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Dec 92 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Those Wounded by Saddam Are Following in his Footsteps"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The recent statement ratified at the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit session smacks more of collusion and conspiracy than of regional cooperation. It appears that the regional shaykhs are once again deluding themselves.

The facts and figures leave no room for optimism. All evidence points to the fact that a new era of crises will be initiated in the region at the hands of the regional shaykhs on a new pretext. The regional shaykhs supported the "executioner of Baghdad" on the basis of similar diabolical temptations. Saddam was assigned to act as a shield in the face of the Islamic Revolution. The shaykhs placed all their resources at the disposal of the "executioner of Baghdad." However, Saddam was more audacious than they bargained for and ended up inflicting misfortune and crimes on his supporters.

He attacked Kuwait and occupied its territory on the basis of "historical claims," attempting to swallow up Kuwait and relegate the inadequate shaykhs to the garbage heap of history.

Today, the same inadequate Kuwait shaykh, who was not ready to stay there even for one minute to resist the foreign attack to defend Kuwaiti territory; the same shaykhs who were anxious to kiss the hands and feet of Saddam to foil his aggression have forgotten everything and are being tempted to create another crisis in the region.

It is still not very clear why the shaykh of Bahrain has joined the others. If "historical precedents" are to be the criteria, the Shaykh of Bahrain should go about his own business and the sovereignty of the people of Iran over the land of Bahrain, which belonged to Iran until 1972, should be reestablished.

It would be appropriate for the Iranian foreign minister to seriously propose the issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran's sovereignty over Bahrain on the basis of indisputable "historical precedents" with which all the regional shaykhs are well acquainted, and should launch an earnest and effective effort to terminate Bahrain's separation from Iran.

The fact is that the GCC disintegrated with the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Even after the end to the occupation of Kuwait, the members of that disbanded association failed to achieve the necessary strength and unity in this heterogeneous organization despite all their efforts.

Today, historical claims among the members of this association are rife and territorial disputes are so deep-rooted that it seems too farfetched to imagine that they will be addressed and easily resolved.

A review of the latest stances indicates that in the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, two antithetical spirits prevail. The first represents those who believe that past mistakes should not be repeated and that lessons should be learned from the bitter experiences of the past. This group is comprised of the elite thinkers of the nation. However, the other group believes that regardless of the price, one must invest in and strive to serve foreigners and implement their plans. They, thus vie with one another to provide such services.

It is not very clear whether this group will be successful in consolidating its foothold among the governments of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf, or what the fate of the current rulers of the region will be. What is certain, however, is that Washington is pursuing its malicious objectives by seeking to support the second group. Thus, the primary outcome of this policy will be a change in the face of the governments of the littoral shaykhdoms in the Persian Gulf.

There is some evidence that the Cairo regime may be one of those implementing this plan, that it acts as the intermediary of the United States and Israel. Cairo's mischief-mongering and treachery in favor of the regional shaykhs should be completely exposed. There are some who would say: Why should we inform the deluded shaykhs of the Persian Gulf of the depth of the catastrophe that awaits them? Perhaps they need to suffer for the crisis they have generated and learn a lesson.

Those who contribute to this theory say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its sagacious stance. Advice, warnings, and talk have all been forthcoming; however, it appears that the shaykhs have not realized the truth. Therefore, there is no need for further warnings. It would be logical to wait and see how the group nurtured by the powers of world arrogance among the

ruling parties of the regional shaykhdoms enter the fray to eliminate the traditional GCC leaders and remove the atrophied generation of these shaykhs from the scene.

UN Policy Toward Israel on Deportees Criticized

LD0701155393 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan 7. , IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [6 January] criticized the United Nations policy towards Israel's indifference towards the Security Council Resolution 799.

"Unfortunately the United Nations influenced by certain Western powers, has not taken serious measures towards implementation of the UN Resolution 799," he told visiting Kerakin II of the Eastern Orthodox Church in a meeting.

The resolution obliges the Zionist regime to return the Palestinian deportees, however, no guarantee has been given by the resolution.

Referring to the Serbian crimes against the people in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Velayati said neither Christians nor Muslims are safe from the Serbian attacks. "The Serbs have killed a group of Muslim and Christian clergies," he added.

Kerakin in reply praised Iran's international stance of supporting the oppressed masses of the world, as well as the Islamic Republic's efforts for a peaceful settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan disputes.

Further in the meeting, Aram Keshishian, the archbishop of the Armenians in Lebanon, reported on the measures taken by the world assembly of the Armenian churches to end the genocide in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Velayati Leaves for Europe, To Sign Weapons Pact

LD0701111593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left Tehran for Warsaw this morning, for a visit to a number of European countries.

After a two-day stay in Poland and reviewing the latest developments in the Balkans and mutual ties, the foreign minister and his entourage will visit Austria, Albania, and France.

A conference on preventing the designing, manufacturing, and use of chemical weapons will be held in France on 23 January. Mr. Velayati will take part in the conference and sign the convention banning chemical weapons.

UN Envoy Interviewed on New World, UN Situation

NC0701120793 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Dec 92 p 12

[Interview with Iran's Permanent UN Representative Dr. Kamal Kharrazi by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] In light of a new set of conditions in the world and the new position of the United Nations on the international level, what is the role of the Iranian representation in this international organization?

[Kharrazi] The trend of international events has been such that relations of countries within the framework of the United Nations should now assume a more realistic and sensitive format. [passage omitted]

According to current interpretations, the United Nations can interfere in the internal affairs of a country if circumstances dictate. In the past two years, we have witnessed examples of such interference. The United Nations, especially the Security Council, has authorized and legitimized practical violations of the national sovereignty of countries and intervention in internal affairs of countries on certain pretexts, which were not remotely political but were in the interest of the greater powers.

Against such this backdrop, Islamic Iran, in its capacity as a large and powerful nation of the region which enjoys popular support, plays an active role in the defense of its own rights and for cooperation and participation in the current tussle in the United Nations between the "North" and "South. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Currently the only field of maneuverability for the Third World countries is the General Assembly, and you said that we must seek to protect our rights within the framework of the countries of the South. The General Assembly resolutions do not have a tension-generating bias; the Security Council that makes the final decision. The question is how can we reach our objectives through the mechanism of the General Assembly and vindicate our rights? [passage omitted]

[Kharrazi] Of course, it is not as if the decisions of the General Assembly have no guarantees for implementation. The General Assembly can insist that the secretary general should implement these decisions. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Simultaneous with the expansion in the scope of the United Nations, the role of the regional organizations also seems to have broadened. For example, for the first time since its inception, the Islamic Conference Organization elivered an ultimatum to the United Nations that if nothing were done to halt the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, it will be forced to take direct steps. Is it, therefore, true that regional organizations are also expanding their roles

along with the United Nations? If so, what will be the effect on the South's efforts to attain its rights vis-a-vis the North?

[Kharrazi] You have mentioned an important point. Incidentally, this issue exists in the United Nations as well and the secretary general is paying attention to it; that is, giving more importance to regional organizations. This will minimize the burden of the United Nations on regional events. A trend does exist is this direction. For example, European problems have been delegated to the EC. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Ties With Armenia, Azerbaijan

NC0701125193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran is Ready To Resume Peace Initiatives Despite Obstructions"]

[Text] A high ranking delegation headed by Azerbaijan first Vice President, Penah Guseynov, will be arriving in Iran today.

Last week Iran was host to Gagik Arutyunyan, Vice President of the Republic of Armenia, who left Iran after having concluded a number of economic agreements.

After a period of decline in its relations with the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Tehran is once again becoming the center of gravity between the two republics.

Iran's mediatory efforts of last year to establish ceasefire and ultimate peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia was not successful, but even Iran's failure in this connection created a special diplomatic prestige for the country. And now after the lapse of a year Iran's goodwill in undertaking the mediatory initiatives has been proven to both sides.

After the collapse of the former Soviet Union, unfortunately the growth of nationalistic sentiments was very strong in the newly liberated republics who based their policies on a blind faith that the upsurge of ethnic and nationalistic tendencies would solve their problems.

As it turned out, the ethnic and nationalistic tendencies not only did not solve their problems, but they served to revive age-old feuds from the previous centuries, and led to the devastating war over Nagorno-Karabakh which has been raging for the past three years between the two republics.

The war has so far resulted in great waste of the human and economic resources on both sides, and its social and cultural consequences will undoubtedly be felt by both republics for many years to come.

At all events, Iran welcomes the Azerbaijani delegation who are the highest ranking officials from that country to be visiting Iran since the presidential elections held in that Republic in June 92.

And although Iran's mediation initiatives of last year was not received with the due consideration and understanding by either of the two republics, nevertheless in view of the sense of responsibility which Iran feels towards maintaining peace and stability in the region, it is incumbent on Iran to resume its diplomatic efforts to bring to an end the destructive hostilities which is going on between the two countries.

And it is hoped that both sides will realize that the continuation of the military encounter only benefits the enemies of the independence of both countries. The weak and fragile economies of small countries like Azerbaijan and Armenia can not bear the ruinous consequences of war.

Georgia's Shevardnadze To Begin Visit 19 Jan

LD0601201393 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 6, IRNA—The Georgian Parliament Speaker Eduard Shevardnadze heading a high ranking economic-political delegation will pay a two-day visit to Tehran on January 19, his press spokesman said here today.

During the visit, Shevardnadze will hold talks with the Iranian officials and sign an agreement on mutual economic cooperation and friendship, the same source said.

Shevardnadze, the highest ranking leader of Georgia, will be visiting Iran at the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Commentary Discusses, Criticizes 13th GCC Session

NC0701120893 Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 Dec 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Unlucky 13th Session"]

[Excerpts] The gains of the 13th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] session were as we had predicted; that is, the repetition of the historical experiences of this futureless Council. The internal crises of the Council have ostensibly been allayed for the time being by external issues. As we mentioned earlier, the most important issue pertains to the potential enemy of the servile shaykhdoms and is its northern neighbor [Iran]. [passage omitted]

This Council was established to combat independent and revolutionary Islamic thinking of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The events in Abu Dhabi should not be a surprise in the light of this basic analysis. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, we must concede that our diplomacy has been unsuccessful regarding the Persian Gulf shaykhs. If in the past the operations by Islamic combatants on the battlefield had worked in tandem with this diplomacy,

today, political moves and postures should be employed to keep the enemies in place and to thwart their audacity and boldness. In other words, if our diplomacy is to be punctuated with gallant moves and abstention from going to extremes to stress the issue of a balance of power in the region, we should also realize that artificial smiles of politicians and hosting of Iranian officials at palace banquets in Holy Mecca will not prevent our enemies from baring their fangs and talons at us when they wish to do so.

We must remember that while meticulously adhering to the principles of diplomacy, we should maintain our defense balance in the region. Whenever the need arises, we should highlight our principled stance, thus displaying our strict adherence to it in practice.

The Persian Gulf shaykhdoms should realize that when our president speaks of rivers of blood, bilateral relations with Iran are at the level of a seething hurricane. In order to calm these relations, they should pay the price and compensate for the past. They will see the practical response to their audacity with regard to [their claims to] Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf in the future actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which God willing, will result with a revision of our past unsuccessful foreign policy.

We should appraise our past foreign policy and evolve our diplomacy keeping in mind the nature of the GCC members, and the weak points of our former performance which motivated them to become so avaricious. Those who wish to bring the shaykhs to the right path by mere smiles should witness the results today. Our president's emphasis has opened the path for them to revise their former policy, and we hope this opportunity will not be ignored.

President Stresses Stronger Government-Majles Ties

LD0501214493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Excerpt] At a joint working meeting of the cabinet and Majles representatives, the participants stressed the need for supporting government's strategic projects and for cooperation between the executive and legislative powers in catering to the people's interests. The meeting took place on 5 January with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri being present.

Referring to the basic progress achieved in various sectors, the president said: Relying on the goodwill and expert views of the Majles, the government is fully prepared to implement what the Majles approves. It will implement whatever the Majles deems to be right with regard to the budget.

Addressing the Majles representatives, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Majles should approve and the government should implement after deep and expert examination all the bills submitted by the government or by the Majles members. They should not allow the likely developments in the world to affect the country's basic projects.

The president added: The government's anti-inflationary policies will be seriously followed up. The government is trying to support the projects which will have a positive impact on the lives of the people. He stressed: The country's economy has adopted a healthy trend. Strengthening of bonds between the government and the Majles can guarantee the success of basic projects and a positive future for the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The government has a serious task in front of itself, which is to draft the second five-year plan. To do this, the government really needs the Majles.

The president said that the guidelines given by the Great Leader of the Islamic Revolution guarantee the soundness of the government's work. He said: As the Great Leader of the Islamic Revolution has emphasized, the government and the Majles must jointly carry the heavy load of the system's responsibilities.

He also thanked the assistance of the Majles in various fields, especially in enacting basic bills which serve the needs of the people.

At the same meeting Mr. Nateq-Nuri expressed appreciation for the government's services in implementing the country's strategic and infrastructural projects. He assessed the trend of the government's move in that field as being positive.

He also stressed the need to hold joint meetings between the government and the Majles to expertly survey the important projects and also to strengthen sincerity and understanding between the country's decision makers. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Speaks on Need for Justice

LD0701164193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Excerpts] A group of civilian and military officials and various groups of people were received today by Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, in order to commemorate the happy birth of the commander of the faithful, His Eminence Ali, may peace be upon him. Here follows the detailed speech of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution.

[Begin Khamene'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In the Islamic Republic, justice is not a personal message, it is a social structure. That is, it is not sufficient for a person to behave fairly in his own environment. Justice means a society should be ruled by the firm hand of justice; that

is, a society with fair laws, which are implemented fairly, supervised fairly, judged fairly, and distributed fairly. This is a matter that is regarded as a value to the Islamic Republic.

Those who are experts in financial and economic matters today speak of planning to reach the level of such and such country. Each expert has his own opinion of how to reach that goal. Even if our economy and infrastructure were built to reach the level of developed countries, even when we build Iran to reach the level of any of the rich countries, it would have no value without justice in Iran. The message of Islam is the establishment of justice. The Islamic uprising in Iran was in pursuit of justice. The prophets came to establish justice.

Mankind is impatiently awaiting the advent of the lord of the age. Mankind is awaiting the advent of the promised messiah because he is coming to bring justice to the world. This is the message that the Islamic revolution has brought to the world; and it is dutybound to observe justice. That is the main issue.

It would be far better for us to have less and observe justice instead of possessing plenty while ignoring justice. The objective is not to have plenty; rather the objective is to implement justice. There are many countries in the world that are very rich today. Look at the capitalist world, look at some countries that are sitting on massive divine wealth under their territory. The rulers of these countries extract this wealth, sell it, and spend the money recklessly. No doubt they are wealthy. Their per capita income is 10 times above the average country. But does it mean everyone in these countries enjoys an equal share?

What does it mean? Does it means that all the people can enjoy that per capita income? Never. It does not mean that. If you look at some capitalist countries, there are manifestations of wealth, huge factories, apartments and buildings that reach the sky, huge and legendary amounts of wealth. Is there justice in those countries? Of course not. We can see that there is not. In those countries there are people who are suffering a great deal from hunger, lack of medicine, and homelessness, and some are dying as a result of those problems in those countries. We do not want that. The revolution is not for that. The revolution is for establishing justice.

Of course, I should say to you, if there is justice in a society, if the legislative, judiciary, and executive branches are all fair, if the views of all the people are just, the social, construction, and economic effort would be better in that country. There would also be more wealth in that country. That is the main issue. And that is what we are after. I say it clearly. The policies are based on that in the Islamic Republic. And it has been so since the beginning of the revolution, and it shall always be so. The aim of the Islamic Republic is to maintain justice in society. [crowd chants: "God is great!" "Khamene'i is the leader!" "Death to America!" "Death to Israel!" "Death to hypocrites!"]

There should not be someone in some corner of the country who might think that our aim is to increase the volume of material wealth so that a group of people would have the means of producing wealth, but other people would not matter. Or that we would be content to have doubled the average per capita income. Or that we have increased the total national production from one level to another. Of course these measures can, in certain cases, indicate a move toward justice. But this is not always the case.

The aim is to bring about justice in society. This is what we seek. All labor becomes of value when it is done for upholding justice. In an unequal society, even if there is an increase in wealth it would be in the interest of one group or strata of people. But in a society in which there is justice and equality.... [pauses] Of course, we have to define the meaning of equality. Justice does not always mean equality. There should be no mistake about it. Justice means that every element should be in its natural place. This is the meaning of justice. Some simple-minded and shallow people, who were and might continue to be among us, might think justice means that all of society should reap the same. No sir. Someone works harder, the other has a greater potential, the third is more valuable for the progress of the country. Justice acts according to truth. This is the meaning of justice: Giving everyone what he is due. This is what society needs. This is the aim. If this is achieved, and if society prospers, this wealth will be distributed properly. This is the aim of the Islamic movement. Fortunately, these foundations are available in our country.

The precepts of Islam are at our disposal, which elevate us toward justice. The law-making body, the Majles, thank God, is made up of human beings who care about the country and society and seek and are devoted to justice. The government is made up of individuals who are eager to maintain justice in society. The country's president and chief executive is a person who has always been an advocate of justice. They are outstanding figures. And the same applies to the judiciary. Well, in such a favorable situation—with this able and enthusiastic nation and these pious and good officials—we should move toward justice. That is the main thing.

The second point concerns piety and not seeking a material world. I should judge my own lifestyle and see whether I am seeking a material world for myself, or not. We should all think about ourselves. When one speaks of the performance of officials it is personal performance. That is, every official should strive to reflect the piety of lord of the pious—of course, the piety of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, cannot be matched by us, nor could it be fathomed—but it should be a shade of it. We cannot live like that. We are not saying that; he, himself has said it.

Not that we cannot. Nobody can. Even some of the sinless imams, may peace be upon them, have expressed an inability to act in the manner of the commander of the faithful. This is not the point. The point is that we

should take his colors, even though they might be a shade paler. We should follow his style, even though more mildly. We should not move against his direction. The officials should teach this to the people. Attaching oneself to the world and seeking the ways of the world is a shortcoming—in the sense that I just explained—for an official of the Islamic Republic. It is a negative point. It must be to the contrary. To rule and to have a position in the Islamic Republic should not be viewed as booty. All over the world people try to have posts, whatever they might be. It could be membership or management of a small government organization or leadership of a country. They try and are then in power for four, five, or six years. In this five or six years, they try to enjoy the ultimate pleasure. Do not think that the people who struggle to become president and have other posts wish to serve. They do not even claim this. They believed they have managed to get a post and now they should enjoy its pleasures. This was the very thing that the commander of the faithful told his representative Malik Ashtar to refrain from. They see the posts as a prey. It is a prey they have caught and must now exploit and enjoy with all their strength—be it money, power, influence, or opportunity. They must exploit it to the maximum, for themselves, for their relatives and friends. This is the worldly custom. But how about us? How about the Islamic Republic? No, here it must be seen as pure responsibility and duty; as work, hard work, which becomes even harder as it goes higher; as a duty and a responsibility. It should not be that since we have obtained these facilities we should then have the opportunity to try to obtain land, facilities, expenses, and waste. No. Be it membership in the Majles, senior ranks of the civil service, senior military posts, or senior judicial posts. It does not make any difference. It must not been seen as prey or booty or that since we are here we should exploit it.

No sir. Everything should be fair and logical, everything should be based on not wanting material nonsense for oneself. If that were the case, God Almighty would show the way and make the road smoother. We hope that God Almighty will grant us that. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you. [end recording]

'Leniency' in Press Seen as Harming System

NC0401110393 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Publications Jury and Consequences of Absolving GARDUN"]

[Text] When it met to discuss a case involving GARDUN magazine, the publications jury reportedly voted unanimously in favor of acquitting the magazine's chief editor, stating: "Although the bill of indictment views GARDUN articles as sometimes not in line with the goals of the Islamic revolution, they are not such that they require legal punishment and they do not fall within the legal clauses referred to in the bill. So the jury finds the defendant not guilty."

There is information that the court conveyed this view to the defendant, who was acquitted. Based on this information, the sentence is not the view of the court, which, based on its assessment of Article 34 of the 1364 [1985] Press Law, believes it has no alternative but to recognize the decision made by the publications jury in acquitting the defendant—even if it disagrees.

As far as GARDUN's case is concerned, we consider the following points important:

1. Article 34 of the 1362 Press Law says: "Press offenses should be tried by a competent court in the presence of a jury."

As you can see, there is no mention in this article that the court's view should conform with the jury's. It can be gleaned from this article that a competent court can study press offenses only in the presence of a jury and by consulting it. With no mention made of the jury view, we do not understand this to mean that the court's decision should conform with the jury's viewpoint. There are no ambiguities that may raise the need to refer to other laws.

So the court's assessment of this article is incorrect and the court can—after hearing the views of the jury—issue its own decision, which will be valid even if it disagrees with the jury's.

2. In the bill of indictment prepared by the prosecutor of the Islamic revolution in Tehran, the charge brought against the defendant was that he made moves against Islamic revolution gains by the following means:

Presenting ways and directives on how to oppose the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran; spreading rumors against the holy system and its officials; insulting the lofty position of clericalism; insulting the Islamic Republic and officials of the system; insulting the precept of sacred defense; insulting the Hezbollah; and propagandizing and propagating a vile monarchical culture.

Despite the bill of indictment, the jury has stated that the items published in the magazine "were not of the extent that they require legal punishment and do not conform with the charges listed in the bill of indictment."

As you can see, the description of "extent of legal punishment" is not legal, but general, lacking validity and legal value. To clarify, it is not clear what the jury means by "extent" and why the charges listed in the bill do not fall within this "extent." In the same way, rather than being a correct legal assessment that conforms with law, the jury's statement appears to be an approbation based on the gentlemen's personal tastes stemming from their cultural way of thinking. And it is this way of thinking that has given the freedom to act to publications that consider defaming the sanctities of the Islamic revolution to be an ordinary issue and among the means necessary for freedom of thought. It was this way of thinking that led to the hasty assignment of a jury in a

bid to emerge from an impasse in a case involving the former chief editor of KHORASAN; it was only natural for this type of jury to express the view it did.

3. Although the publications jury may think the acquittal without reason of the chief editor of GARDUN—an acquittal that does not conform with legal norms—paints a democratic picture of the Islamic Republic's system, it definitely disregards the natural consequences of such a liberal and lenient viewpoint. While this acquittal means giving a free hand to all those awaiting an opportunity to attack the sanctities of the Islamic revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic, it also paves the grounds for those who allow themselves to confront the elements responsible for these defamations stemming from leniencies, not through legal means, but through force and violence. Who does not know that such approaches contradict the law? Who does not know that paving the grounds for such approaches that contradict the law are the leniencies that do not conform with legal norms?

4. The court acquittal does not mean the closure of the GARDUN case, which will remain open in the Islamic revolution's public prosecution, because of other accusations. The general prosecutor also has the right to ask the court to review its decision. It will be good to draw the attention of some press officials who are joyful about the acquittal of GARDUN's chief editor and the attention of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to the fact that what was published in GARDUN was not opposition to a political group, but, as the bill of indictment of Tehran's Islamic revolution prosecutor stated, opposition to the system of the Islamic Republic. The question is: Should we not think of steps to display a serious approach to anything that may pave the way for leniency that leads to attacking the body of the system?

Yazdi Comments on State of Prisons

LD0301184193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Dear viewers, our next report is on an interview by our correspondent with judiciary head Yazdi. In the interview, our colleague Rohaninezhad asked about the issues discussed in today's meeting between judiciary officials and members of the Majles Commission for Judicial and Legal Affairs. Let me draw your attention to his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Rohaninezhad] Mr. Yazdi, at the end of your second joint session with the Majles Commission for Judicial and Legal Affairs, please tell us about the most important issues discussed at the meeting and the most important programs currently on the judiciary's agenda.

[Yazdi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One issue was the state of the country's prisons; another was the question of the judiciary's workforce; the third was the relationship which must exist between judiciary officials throughout the country and the honorable Majles deputies, in connection with the contacts made by the deputies with judiciary officials. Some other topics were also discussed, of course. Brief explanations were given to the commission members on these three issues.

With regard to the state of the country's prisons, with regard to all the prisons and the number of prisoners: if those serving sentences for drug-related offenses are taken into account, we must say that there is a big problem. If those imprisoned for drug-related offenses are set aside, however, our prisons are, in my view, up to standard, up to international standards. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Economic Policy of Five-Year Plan Previewed

NC0301081093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. The first five-year plan for Iranian economic and social development is putting its fourth year behind it and therefore the various studies for the compilation of the next five-year plan are already under way.

The most important government economic policy within the five-year development plan is the strengthening of indigenous production, saturation [eshba'] of the market, and coordination of demand and supply. For this reason, ever since 1989 the functioning of factories and production units indicated a positive direction. In continuation of the policy of balancing the market, imports were permitted to cater to domestic demand.

According to experts, imports of foreign products, to a reasonable level, result in a boost to the competitive spirit among indigenous producers and improvement of the quality of the country's products. This also facilitates a balance between demand and supply and motivates manufacturers to maintain standards, upgrade the quality of their products, and reduce manufacturing costs. Thus, a relative competitiveness emerges, which benefits domestic industry. On the other hand, mass imports endanger domestic products and generate stagnation or the possible insolvency of numerous local factories. They also discourage producers of agricultural products in particular because these imports mostly constitute consumer goods, not imports for the manufacture of goods in the investment sector. Regarding erratic imports, our country's agriculture minister announced an increase this week in domestic wheat production and criticized the policy of the Commerce Ministry in importing wheat from abroad, which creates problems for agricultural producers.

Based on official statistics, last year the country's imports amounted to more than $28 billion and exports amounted to approximately $18 billion. This means that

in 1991 imports cost $10 billion in excess of our foreign exchange earnings. This difference creates certain foreign exchange commitments that have risen by 31 percent as compared to 1990.

According to known statistics, 70 percent of foreign debts and the country's foreign exchange transactions are short-term loans. This means that instead of paying in cash for purchased goods, importers pay with credit. They then reimburse the sum the next year after adding interest. If it is not possible to reimburse the principal sum stipulated on foreign exchange invoices, the sum is added to the outstanding amount.

According to reports of international economic institutions and publications, the level of Iran's foreign debts has risen from $4.5 billion to more than $15 billion in the three years from 1989 until now; that is, it has tripled. According to economic experts, borrowing to expand industries, especially industries that boost foreign exchange earnings or economize the country's foreign exchange expenditure, is a common and wise practice. Financial warranties for consumer goods imports, even though they detract from economic crises in the short term, generate serious and dangerous problems in the long term for the country's economy.

According to Central Bank experts, the increase in foreign exchange transactions and the negative balance of payments over the past three years were due in general to the purchase of important and sensitive industrial equipment in the first years of the plan and program for putting this equipment into operation in the 1992 to 1993 period. Thus, most of the important purchases were made in the first three years and we will not have any imports in the last two years of the first five-year plan; that is, in 1992 to 1993. The income of these two years will compensate for the extra expenditure of the pa t year's purchases.

In any case, the economy of a country such as Iran, which had been under a decade of political and economic pressure from the greater powers and has emerged with honors from an eight-year-long war, is confronted with innumerable difficulties. Therefore, rectifying habits, popularizing the thought of using domestically manufactured goods, espousing habits of austerity at this juncture in the country's growth, and spreading the culture of endeavor and work are factors that will boost the country's production capacity and bring glad tidings of a healthy economy and a wise utilization of our wealth of underground God-given resources.

* New Appointments to Official Posts Announced

93AS0340B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 2 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] On the suggestion of Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the approval of the president, 'Ali Reza Sheykh-'Attar was appointed as the ambassador extraordinary and fully authorized representative of Iran in India.

Sheykh-'Attar previously held the position of adviser to the minister of foreign affairs and head of the headquarters for the former Soviet Muslim republics, deputy director of the Foundation for the Oppressed, deputy minister of industries, and governor general of Western Azarbaijan.

Seyyed Reza Zavvareh'i, the director of the Documents and Property Registration Organization, issuing a decree, appointed Seyyed 'Abbas Mir Heydari as the deputy director for documents of this organization.

In a decree issued by Engineer Mohammad Hoseyn Fazel, deputy director for legal and parliamentary affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Razavi-Yazdi was appointed as the director general of the legal office of that ministry and began his work.

Dr. Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic Guidance, chose Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni as his adviser and director general of the ministerial office.

The office of the Friday imam of the city of Abhar in Zanjan Province, according to a decree issued by the Central Administration of Friday imams, was conferred on Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Ja'fari.

In separate decrees issued by the minister of interior, Morteza Zarringel was appointed as the deputy governor general for developmental affairs of Hormozgan, Mahmud Jadidi as the governor of Bonab, Reza 'Abdollahi-Darshaki as the governor of Naqdeh, and Zolf'ali Baba'i-Qushchi as the governor of Miandoab.

In a decree by the deputy director for supervision over labor of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, 'Abbas Haj 'Amu-'Assar was appointed as the director of the Center for Research and Instruction in Work Protection and Health and began to work.

Dr. Mehdi Qandai, associate professor of the College of Sciences of the University of Tehran, was appointed by Dr. Mohammad Rahimian, the president of this university, as the educational vice president of Tehran University, retaining his educational duties.

* More New Appointments Announced

93AS0340C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 9 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Morteza-Fatemiyan was appointed by the grand leader as the Friday imam of the city of Abik, in Zanjan Province.

In a decree by Dr. 'Ali Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Hasan Eslami was appointed the director general for the coordination of provinces and began to work.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the guardian of the Institute for the Organization and Publishing of the Works of Imam Khomeyni, issuing a

decree, appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Serajoddin Musavi as the deputy director for international affairs of this institute.

Engineer 'Ali 'Asgari was appointed as the general manager and chairman of the board of directors, and 'Ali Kordan, Akbar Ghamkhar, Seyyed Mohsen Nabavi, and Seyyed Rasul Sadatnezhad were appointed as members of the board of directors of the Central Organization of Iran and International Tourism and began to work.

In accordance with a decree issued by the minister of economic affairs and finance, the director general of the Office of Public Relations and Guidance of this ministry was conferred on Engineer Davud Bahrami-Siavoshani.

* More New Appointments

93AS0340D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] On the suggestion of General 'Ali Shahbazi, the commander in chief of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the approval of the grand leader, General Iraj Sepehr was appointed the military adviser to the commander of the armed forces and General Naser Arasteh as the acting commander in chief of the Army and began to work.

The minister of foreign affairs appointed Abolhasan Sharif-Mohammadi as the charge d'affaires of Iran in Zaire.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hezaveh'i-Hamadani was appointed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Heydarzadeh, the representative of the religious guardian in the Construction Jihad, in ceremonies as the director of the Office of the Religious Guardian in the fishery.

Habibollah 'Ali Akbari, in accordance with a decree, was appointed the administrative and financial deputy director of the national headquarters for attending to the affairs of the freed prisoners of war and began to work.

Seyyed 'Ali Sadrossadat, in accordance with a decree issued by the minister of construction jihad, became the deputy administrative and financial minister of this ministry.

Issuing a decree, Ayatollah Khamene'i appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sheykh Mojtaba Ya'subi as the representative of the religious guardian and Friday imam of Ilam.

The Central Administration office of the Friday imams in the country in separate decrees appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Reza A'rafi as the Friday imam of Meybod and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Hoseyni as the Friday imam of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab.

The Central Administration office of Friday imams issued a decree appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Mohammad Valdani as the Friday imam of Nurabad of Fars.

* Further Appointments Announced

93AS0340E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 23 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Eraqi, the head of Islamic Propaganda Organization, introduced Hojjat ol-Eslam Ruhollah Hoseynian as the new research deputy of the organization.

In a decree by Engineer Bani-Najjarian, the deputy minister of roads and transports and head of the National Airlines Organization, Hoseyn 'Ali Ghiasinezhad was appointed director general of the Director's Office of the organization and head of the Public Relations Office of the National Airlines Organization, and he began to work.

In a decree, Dr. Malekzadeh, the minister of health, treatment and medical education, appointed Dr. Ghazanfar Foruzanfar chairman of the Birjand Medical Sciences College.

In separate decrees by Morteza Mohammad Khan, the director general of the Customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Nazarinia and 'Ali Rahmani were appointed as the director general of imports and director of exports of this office, respectively.

In a decree by Engineer Hasan Bonyanian, the head of the New School Construction, Development, and Equipment Organization, Engineer 'Abbas Nikkhah was appointed as the director of new school construction of Central Province and began to work.

In a decree by the Central Administrative Office of the Friday Imams, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn 'Ali Mohammadinezhad was appointed as the Friday imam of Ramshir, in the province of Khuzestan.

* Anzali To Become Free Commercial Port

93AS0342N London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Engineer Alviri, consultant to the president of the Republic and secretary of the Supreme Council of Iran's Trade and Industrial Zones, announced on 8 Azar [29 November] that with Majles approval Bandar Anzali will become a free commercial and industrial zone. He added that "despite the changes that have taken place in the Caspian Sea nations, the creation of a free zone on the shores of this sea is economically justifiable." The Italian news agency ANSA evalulated Iran's decision to rebuild Bandar Anzali and make it into a free commercial port in terms of Tehran's economic activity in Central Asia.

The Sirjan special economic zone, which will begin operating late in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], came about following the strengthening of economic relations between Iran and Central Asia. According to Islamic Republic officials, this zone was planned and designed after studying models such as Hong Kong and Masan in South Korea, and it is intended to compete with similar zones in the south of

the Persian Gulf. On the other hand the Kish free trade zone is seen as a way to establish direct contacts and to sign commercial agreements with the republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus in the area of its fundamental goals, and so far it has established orderly relations with Azarbaijan and Kazakhstan.

The formation of "commercial-industrial free trade zones," "special commercial zones," and "protected customs zones" in Iran is faced with a huge legal vacuum. The increase in their numbers, which is mostly being done based on the Article 20 Note in the first Five-Year Plan Law, has faced a harsh reaction from opponents to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's policy of economic deregulation. So far these opponents have prevented the approval of the Free Zones Law in the Majles and have caused a great deal of trouble for the operation of these zones, especially in terms of attracting foreign capital.

With the revival of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the expansion of its activities, Iran brought its bilateral economic relations with the Central Asian Nations and the Caucasus to a new level. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, these two areas became a very important strategic theater for Iran's diplomatic and economic activities. Iranian industrial leaders and merchants have also placed high hopes in the future of this area, which played an important role in Iran's economy through the first two decades of the 20th century, and they are not willing suddenly to give it up to their competitors. In the last three months, Tehran's economic cooperation with the new Central Asian and Caucasian republics has been reshaped and reorganized through the signing of a series of legal documents:

Iran and Azarbaijan: The political crisis in relations between Tehran and Baku is apparently no obstacle to the expansion of their economic relations. Based on an agreement signed between the two nations late in the month of Aban [23 Oct-21 Nov 1992], their cooperation will increase in areas such as exchanging Iran's natural gas for Azarbaijan's gasoil, border trade, joint investments, tourism, shipping, fishing, electrical power, and other things.

Iran and Tajikistan: The two sides have decided to do all of their export and import activity in the framework of a joint company called Tajiran. This company will operate on a 51- to 49-percent basis in the framework of a bilateral commercial cooperation protocol between the two countries, which was signed in Tehran in Tir 1371 [22 June-22 July 1992].

Iran and Kazakhstan: During the trip to Iran by Nursoltan Nazarbayov, which took place in the month of Aban this year, the two sides agreed to create favorable conditions legally, financially and commercially for their comprehensive economic cooperation.

Iran and Uzbekistan: At the end of the recent trip to Iran by Eslam Karimov, the president of the republic of Uzbekistan, which took place early in the current month of Azar [22 November-21 December], several cooperation agreements were signed between Tehran and Tashkent in banking, commerce, industry, academic activity, technology and transportation.

There is no doubt that the effectiveness of these treaties depends on Iran's ability to make use of their possibilities. Under current conditions, Iran's commercial and industrial weaknesses and the many twists and turns in the Islamic Republic's economic policies do not allow this country to make good use of the very favorable atmosphere that it has developed with its neighbors. In this atmosphere Iran faces a powerful economic competitor like Turkey. Russia also, if it can overcome its current state of disarray, will in the future emerge as a powerful industrial and commercial center in the region. The long-term stabilization of Iran's influence in the Caucasus and Central Asia depends on strengthening the country's economic capability.

* Amphibious Exercises Conducted by Army, Navy

93AS0342J London KEYHAN in Persian 17 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] A large amphibious and land exercise was conducted last week in the Persian Gulf by Iran's defense forces. The revolutionary guards, the Navy and the Army took part in this exercise, which was called Shahamat. The Persian Gulf maneuvers took four days, and according to guardsman Mohtaj, acting commander of the Naval Forces, all units and equipment took part, including Iran's new submarine, which was purchased from Russia.

The Shahamat maneuver, which took place in a 450-square-mile area, had seven stages, and its exercises included minelaying, minesweeping, underwater attacks on a mock enemy, and bridge building.

* Cooperative Agreements Signed With Uzbekistan

93AS0340H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 2 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] Tehran. KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service. 5 Azar [26 November] Eslam Karimzadeh, the president of Uzbekistan, who had traveled to Tehran on an official visit, met and spoke with the grand leader, the president, and several Iranian officials. In the conclusion of this visit, several cooperative economic and cultural agreements were signed between the two countries.

The president of Uzbekistan and his Iranian counterpart, along with the accompanying delegation and several Iranian officials, visited Ayatollah Khamene'i, the grand leader.

In this meeting, Ayatollah Khamene'i described the relations between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Uzbekistan as a spiritual, deep, and old relationship and, pointing out the great works of the Uzbek scholars in Islamic culture, said: We consider the Republic of

Uzbekistan as a great center of Islamic culture and are very happy to see this country returning to its authentic Islamic culture after the independence of the former Soviet Republics and also welcome the brotherly and sincere relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan.

We believe that countries with common cultural and historical aspects must cooperate and avoid relying on large oppressive powers.

The leader of the Islamic revolution considered the correct path of life among the neighboring Islamic countries and countries with common ties to be that of regional cooperators and added: The great powers are worried about such countries being unified and cooperative and do not want such unity to take place, but we must think about our own interests and not worry about the wishes of the oppressive powers. We wish you more success every day in your determination to create brotherly and Islamic relations with the Muslim and neighboring countries.

The president of Uzbekistan in the course of his stay in Tehran met and spoke with president Hashemi-Rafsanjani, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the ministers of foreign affairs, and other Iranian officials.

Before his trip to Tehran, he had said that Iran is one of the most powerful countries in the Middle East and Asia and emphasized that understanding and sincere cooperation between the two countries can be a strong fist on the mouth of those who repeat such nonsense as that Iran is trying to influence Central Asia.

Eslam Karimzadeh and his accompanying delegation after leaving Tehran also visited Esfahan. As he left Tehran for Esfahan, he was officially seen off by the president. At the end of the visit of the president of Uzbekistan to Tehran, a communique was issued. This communique, which was signed by the presidents of both countries, includes the following:

1. An announcement of the principles of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. An agreement between the Central Banks of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

3. A trade agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4. An air transportation agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

5. A note of understanding on economic, industrial, scientific, and technical cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

6. A note of understanding on transportation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

7. A note of understanding between the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan also announced the following, considering their common positions in regard to the regional and international issues.

1. Both sides, in light of the recent charges in the world, emphasized the necessity for close cooperation between the countries and regional and international organizations in order to strengthen collective security in Asia and other parts of the world.

2. Both sides emphasized the importance of the role of international organizations in regards to supervision over peace and ending current hostilities in the world.

3. Both sides demanded just and peaceful dealings in resolving regional and international problems.

4. Both sides, considering the increasing resources, emphasized the expansion of mutual cooperation and the necessity of making full use of the existing capabilities in the prosperity of countries and the strengthening of peace and security.

5. Both sides, by paying special attention to the changes in Afghanistan, while respecting noninterference in its internal affairs, demanded the establishment of peace and stability in that country as soon as possible.

6. Both sides, expressing interest in helping end the armed conflicts and bloodshed in the Republic of Tajikestan, expressed their wish to establish peace and calm and steps to reconstruct that country and emphasized the rule, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Tajikestan.

* Flour, Grains Sent to Nakhichevan

93AS0340F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 16 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Tehran. 18 Azar [9 Dec] The gifts of the grand leader, including 5,000 tons of flour, 2,000 tons of legumes, and a significant amount of fuel, traveled in 37 cargo cars from Tabriz to the war-stricken Republic of Nakhichevan.

According to a report by the KEYHAN correspondent in Tabriz, Engineer 'Abdol'alizadeh, the governor general of Eastern Azarbaijan, said in a speech: Within the framework of the signed protocols between Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic, in the past month more than 5,000 tons of goods and a significant amount of fuel at a value of one billion rials were sent from Eastern Azarbaijan Province to the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

He said: Simultaneous with the opening of the representative office of the Governor General's Office of Eastern Azarbaijan in the city of Nakhichevan, this month a

machine bread unit was also set into operation by the Governor's Office of Marand in Nakhichevan.

According to the governor general of Eastern Azarbaijan, by next month two other machine bread units from the Governor General's Office of Eastern Azarbaijan will start operation in the autonomous region of Nakhichevan.

Pakistan

Minister on Foreign Policy, Kashmir, India

BK0601161693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said successful foreign policy of the present government has raised Pakistan's prestige at international level. He was participating today in the debate in the National Assembly on the address of the president to the joint session of parliament. He said Pakistan has been elected as member of the Security Council which reflects Pakistan's honorable position in the comity of nations. Pakistan now enjoys best relations with all the countries of the region, including China, Afghanistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Gulf states, and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries except India. Despite initiatives taken by the prime minister to improve relations, Indian response is not encouraging. He said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, impressed upon his Indian counterpart during [the] meeting to resolve the Kashmir issue. The minister of state for foreign affairs said it is due to the policies of the present government that resolutions on Kashmir were adopted for the first time at the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and ECO [Economic Conference Organization] summit and the European Parliament has supported the Kashmiris. There is a better realization in the world about Kashmir issue. Despite Indian atrocities, struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination is continuing.

He said Pakistan is against nuclear proliferation and is getting more support at the UN to make South Asia free from nuclear weapons. He regretted over the interview of the leader of the opposition on NBC regarding Pakistan's nuclear program putting the country in an embarrassing situation.

The federal minister for local government and rural development, Mr. Ghulam Dastagir Khan, described the president's address as a fair assessment of the general situation premvailing in the country. He criticized PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance] agitational politics and said there is no justification for such move as people can no more be hoodwinked. He said the people's party during its tenure adopted aggressive policies, set up the lie camps [as heard] to torture political opponents and rigged elections in 1977. He said the present government is striving hard to ameleorate the lot of the common man and to strengthen democracy and national defense.

Six other members participated in the debate today and expressed their views on the address of the president to the joint session. The house will now meet tomorrow morning.

Minister on Relations With U.S., Other Issues

BK0601162993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today continued its debate on the president's address to the joint session of parliament. Taking part in the debate, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, said the unanimous election of Pakistan as a member of the UN Security Council, and the approval of the resolution on Kashmir by the Islamic Conference Organization and the Economic Cooperation Organization is clear evidence of the present government's successful foreign policy and the dignity and honor of Pakistan in the comity of nations. [passage omitted]

On relations with the United States, he said the only cause for the lack of warmth in relations with that country is the nuclear issue and talks are continuing in that regard in both countries. He added, however, that in these talks our national interests remain at the forefront. He said Pakistan opposes nuclear weapons proliferation and added that support is increasing in the United Nations in its proposal to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

Expressing concern over the opposition leader's interview to the NBC television network on Pakistan's nuclear program, the spokesman said this interview has put the country in a difficult position.

Participating in the debate, Maqdum Shahabuddin of the People's Democratic Alliance said it is encouraging that the president did not criticize the opposition adding that it is a good omen for democracy. He urged the government to take make a new initiative to ensure a prosperous and bright future for the country.

Ghulam Dastagir Khan, minister for local government and rural development, reiterated that the government is determined to eradicate from society corruption and other evils. He urged the opposition to cooperate with the government in its efforts to uphold the dignity and honor of Islam and promote national integration, and to cooperate on economic and defense matters.

Omar Hayat of the Islamic Democratic Alliance said the president, in his address, presented an unbiased assessment of the current situation in the country. He called upon the Pakistan People's Party to give up its antidemocratic activities and support the government's

efforts to improve the economy and to enhance democracy in the country. [passage omitted]

Mosque Demolition, Israeli Deportations Condemned

BK0701115093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Senate has unanimously adopted two resolutions strongly condemning demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] by Hindu extremists in India and deportation of over 400 Palestinians by Israel from Palestine. The house, which was prorogued today, expressed its deep anguish over failure of the Indian Government to protect the historic mosque and the large-scale killings of Muslims after the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

The resolution on Babri Masjid called on the Indian Government to apprehend the culprits and put them on trial, rebuild the mosque at its original site, and protect the life and property of its Muslim minority. The other resolution strongly condemned the brutal deportation of Palestinians from Israel and urged the United Nations not only to look into this latest act, but also resolve the long-standing Palestinian issue in accordance with its resolutions. The house condemned Israel for denying even the basic humanitarian aid to the deportees who are now trapped at the border between Israel and Lebanon.

Report on Bhutto Interview With Saudi Paper

BK0601151293 Lahore JANG in Urdu 28 Dec 92 p 1,8

[Text] Jeddah (by JANG correspondent)—Ms. Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has said that Pakistan would have become a nuclear power in December 1977 if marshal law was not imposed. But some people not only sacrificed Pakistan's nuclear capability but also the Islamic bomb over their selfish desires. If Pakistan wishes now to fulfill this dream, then it will not only expose its Kahuta nuclear plant to danger, but it might encounter a threat of its breakup as well. Ms. Bhutto made these remarks in a special interview with the SAUDI GAZETTE. She said that the PPP conceived the nuclear program, but it was removed from power because we wanted a bomb for Pakistan's security.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that I am one of those few who knows about the nuclear program, because my father was the progenitor of this program. He took the secret of this program with him to his grave, and I too will take this secret to my grave. She said that the United States had threatened to stop aid when she became the prime minister. I was working with a president and a chief of army staff who were opposed to me. My father was threatened that he would be made an example of, and he was. But I did not like to turn Pakistan into an example. Therefore, we formulated a strategy which could provide protection to Pakistan's nuclear program—a strategy which was not contradictory to the Pressler Amendment. This was why Pressler once again endorsed it. But unfortunately, like in 1977, some people sacrificed Pakistan's nuclear program over their own interests.

In reply to a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that we were making the Islamic bomb with extreme secrecy in accordance with Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's plan. But General Zia, who enjoyed U.S. support, tore off this secrecy. And since then whatever Pakistan purchases in the uranium sector is being monitored and strictly watched. In fact, he destroyed the program by removing this secrecy. Therefore, Pakistan is not in a position now to make a bomb in the future. She said that if Israel can drop bombs on Iraq, it can do so on Kahuta as well.

In reply to a question about the reported U.S. move to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said such a danger does exist for Pakistan and it is unfortunate. Instead of India, which has unleashed state terrorism on the unarmed people of Jammu and Kashmir, being declared a terrorist nation, Pakistan is facing the danger of being declared so.

About the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, she said that we cannot say anything now about the popularity of the party, because it is very difficult to gauge the popularity of a party when its leader leaves the country and then the party itself. On the ongoing operation in Sindh, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that in her opinion, the Army is carrying out the operation under the pressure of the federal government and the president in their political interests.

Reportage on Kazakh Transport Minister Visit

Meets Production, Science Ministers

BK0601152692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Kazakhstan's minister for transport, Mr. Nemat Jan Kavatavich [name and title as heard], during meeting with Federal Minister for Production Mr. Islam Nabi discussed areas of greater economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Islam Nabi informed him that as a result of the process of privatization, excellent opportunities for foreign investment exist in Pakistan. Possibilities of export of a sugar mill and cement plant to Kazakhstan were also discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Nemat Jan Kavatavich also held wide-ranging talks with Federal Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo. Mr. Kavatavich said his country needs latest technologies from friendly countries like Pakistan to restructure its economy. Mr. Elahi Bux Sumroo said Pakistan shares religious and cultural bonds with the Central Asian States and is willing to extend all possible assistance to them.

Memo on Transport Signed

BK0601162693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan and Kazakhstan have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote transport of cargo and passengers by road and air. The memorandum was signed at the end of the first meeting of their joint ministerial commission in Islamabad this evening. It also provides for exploring other avenues of cooperation between the two countries. It was agreed that a meeting will be held between the transport ministers of Pakistan and Kazakhstan to explore possibilities of communication links with ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member countries. A Pakistan civil aviation delegation would visit Alma Ata by the end of next month to negotiate and finalize air service agreement. Another delegation would visit Kazakhstan to explore the import of wheat from that country.

Joint Ministerial Meeting Ends

BK0701024093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has offered a soft-term loan of $40 million to Kazakhstan to purchase a Pakistani cement plant. The plant will have a daily production capacity of 1,000 metric tons, which can be doubled at later stage. Another loan of $10 million has been finalized for the purchase of other Pakistani goods by Kazakhstan. These decisions were taken at the first meeting of the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Ministerial Commission, which ended in Islamabad last night. Both delegations agreed to an exchange visit by traders and to hold trade exhibitions. Kazakhstan showed keen interest in starting joint ventures in the fields of tractor production, cables, and agriculture implements.

Welcoming the Kazakhstan delegation at the meeting, Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said the setting up of the joint commission has paved the way for an effective and long-term cooperation between the two countries. Kazakhstan Transport Minister Nemat Jan [name and title as heard], who led his country's delegation at the meeting, expressed full satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting and said his country will spare no effort to effectively and speedily implement the joint commissions's decisions.

Editorial Urges Self-Reliance in Defense Field

BK3112101792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Please do not crawl back into the old trap"]

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has assured that the government was keenly conscious of the need to bolster the country's navy. The timing of this assurance is unusually significant. It is no longer a secret that the United States pressures on Pakistan have now reached the Pakistan Navy. The US demand for the return of the nine vessels leased to Pakistan amounts to impoverishing the Pakistan Navy. There is obviously more politics to it than anything else. Surely, the US navy is in no compelling need for these ancient craft whose warworthiness has never quite been hundred per cent reliable. The demand for the return of these antiquated craft at this moment in time has an unmistakable motive: to tighten the screw which has been the United States policy towards this country ever since it lost all interest in the Afghan affairs. Intelligent and patriotic citizens had never been in favour of total dependence on any single source for defense needs. But succeeding governments, most of them dictatorships manoeuvred in power and maintained by the United States itself, couldn't possibly have the nerve to pursue self-reliant policies. These dictators have brought the country to a situation that for every little nut and bolt we have to extend the begging bowl towards Washington and more often than not get the boot. Navy had without doubt been the underdog among the three armed forces which only speaks of wrong-headed and short-sighted planning. The service which exercised stated power all these years managed the lion's share. Air Force has its own enchantment. But the Army, too, is feeling the pinch of having been left high and dry by Washington. The Air Force has scores of the F-16s here at home and also in the hangars in Houston, but cannot be pressed into service. The former because of US refusal to supply spares, and the latter, because Pressler Amendment forbids their export. And the wonderful part of this story is that the poor Pakistani tax-payer has paid for all this billions of dollars worth of equipment. Only fools would blame the United States. The basic fault lies with the Pakistanis who have thrown their own country into this trap. The US is only doing what it perceives to be in its interests. It used us when it suited US interests. Now it can just cast Pakistan into the trash can. And that's what it has started doing, with a vengeance, too.

We must not allow ourselves to be overtaken by gloom over this prospect. There is a bright side to this picture. We are now thrown to our own devices and resources. And if these are intelligently and diligently mobilised, we can open a new window in our national thinking and begin a new chapter in self-dependence. For the navy, we have the shipbuilding facilities in Karachi. These were deliberately sidetracked because there was money to be made on purchases from the US and from other foreign dealers. Given due support, these shipbuilding works should be the main source of naval craft for the navy. Let a beginnning be made without any delay. The air force has not been doing very badly in its efforts towards self-reliance. Had we started forty years ago on these lines, we should not have been in the mess we are. The chances are that our troubles are going to get worse in the coming months, maybe years. But that should steel our resolve and not daunt us into making unworthy and unsafe compromises. If the United States at some later date, and after having humilitated us to its heart's content, decides to extend the leases of its vessels, we

should not go down on our knees in grateful supplication. Why are we fooling ourselves? What the US and other Western powers sell to the third world states by way of military hardware is mostly junk and the whole idea is to make money, most certainly not to enhance the defence capability of these God forsaken peoples. We have seen and heard the song and dance at Karachi Tuesday, welcoming the French minehunter. We must have paid handsomely in hard cash. What good it is going to be, only the naval egg-heads would know. What we do know is that it is by no means going to be some sort of a wonder on the waves.

We have come to a point where, courtesy of the United States, we simply must bring commonsense and our national self-interest to determine what our defence procurement policies are going to be in an era of betrayal by our closest allies. The details are of course for the experts to work out, but the basic principle is easy enough to enunciate: a full stop to buying junk from abroad against the poor Pakistani tax-payers hard-earned money. It is time our defence expenditure was tuned to our defense, not to saving jobs in the United States and other rich war merchants in Europe.

Minister on Deportations of Nationals From Gulf

BK0601163893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan will sign the convention which completely bans and prohibits production, possession, and use of chemical weapons. The minister of state for special education and social welfare, Mr. Javed Hashmi, has been nominated to sign the agreement on Pakistan's behalf in Paris on Wednesday next [13 January]. A foreign office spokesman in Islamabad today said the signing of the convention by Pakistan was in line with its policy to oppose production, possession, and use of chemical weapons by any country.

He said Pakistan would host 21st ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers' conference in Karachi from the 25th of April this year. The five-day conference would have on its agenda over 100 items relating to political, economic, social, and cultural issues concerning the Islamic world. It would also dilate upon all major problems confronting member countries, including Kashmir, Babri masjid [mosque], Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina and Somalia.

The spokesman categorically refuted press reports that Gulf countries had taken any decision to expel Pakistanis. However, some Gulf stated had repatriated some Pakistanis having no legal documents. Floating facts and figures yearwise, he said only 505 Pakistanis who had gone to Saudi Arabia without legal documents had been repatriated recently as against employment opportunities provided to 50,000 Pakistanis during last year.

German Minister Comments on Environmental Protection

BK0601154093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Federal environment minister of Germany, Mr. Klaus Toepfer, has said that Western industrialized countries are responsible for damaging earth's environment and should share major portion of its rectification and conservation. He was addressing a joint press conference with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, in Islamabad. Mr. Toepfer recalled that his country had been ahead of all other countries in the protection of world environment. Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan said the government of Pakistan will extend cooperation and assistance for protection of global environment.

Editorial Laments National Debt Situation

BK0401150393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 4 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The debt trap"]

[Text] According to a Press report, Pakistan's disbursed public and publicly guaranteed medium and long-term external debt which stood at 15.5 billion dollars in June 30, 1991 was estimated at 16.6 billion dollars on June 30, 1992. Disbursements at 2470.9 million dollars showed an increase of 315.1 million dollars (14.6 per cent) during 1991-92 against a fall of 185.8 million dollars (7.9 per cent) in the preceding year. The ratio of disbursements to commitments increased from 83.7 per cent during 1990-91 to 91.9 per cent in 1991-92. Debt service payments went up by 13.4 per cent from 1395 million dollars in 1990-91 to 1582 million dollars during 1991-92.

Although the amount of disbursements, and the ratio of disbursements to commitments had increased during 1991-92 as compared to previous year, this is not a source of satisfaction. We are already caught in the classical debt trap syndrome when fresh loans are incurred merely to service the previous loans. This is reflected in the sharp decline in net transfers as a percentage of gross disbursements over the years. Net transfers which were 95 per cent in 1960-61 declined to 70 per cent in 1970-71 and further to 13 per cent during 1986-87. After increasing to 55 per cent in 1988-89, these declined to 44 per cent in 1989-90, to 36 per cent in 1990-91 and further to 31 per cent during 1991-92. Is there a way out? More doses of aid will only make the situation worse. The remedy lies in aid being combined with steady expansion of trade. At present, our major exports comprise agricultural produce which just cannot earn enough foreign exchange because of the unstable prices in international markets and the protectionist policies adopted by the US and Europe. Subsidies in billion dollars raise farm output in these countries, depressing world markets and distorting trade. Unfortunately, there are also no signs of creditor countries

thinking in terms of liberalisation of trade. This only adds to the compulsion for Pakistan to make an effort to loosen the debt noose by making a genuine self-sacrificing bid towards self-reliance so that at least the new burdens are progressively reduced. This demands a restructuring of the economy. A new long-term development strategy will have to be evolved in order to ensure that sacrifices and future benefits are equitably distributed among different sections of the people and various regions of the country.

Sri Lanka

LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed in North, East

BK0501112093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Fourteen LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were confirmed killed by security forces in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. The JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that eight terrorists have been confirmed killed in Operation Gold Mine southwest of Vavuniya and 11 others were wounded. All their weapons have been recovered. Three of these terrorists had been killed yesterday in phase two of the operation. In Batticaloa, the security forces ambushed and killed six terrorists. Three of them were killed yesterday at Kanchchagoda, while three others had been killed in an ambush in Batticaloa South on Saturday.

Minister Denies Peace Talks With LTTE

BK0701065293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Colombo, Jan 7 (AFP)—A key Sri Lankan minister Thursday [7 January] denied holding secret peace talks with Tamil Tiger guerrillas amid reports that they had agreed to halt attacks in the capital.

Justice Minister A. C. S. Hameed in a statement rejected as "incorrect and baseless" a report in the privately run ISLAND daily that Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had talks with him in London and Paris.

Hameed who returned to the island earlier in the week after a two-week visit to Europe issued a brief statement saying he had no talks with the LTTE either in London or Paris.

The Island quoted unnamed sources as saying that the LTTE's Paris-based spokesman Lawrence Thilakar had given an assurance that they will not carry out guerrilla attacks in Colombo.

Hameed had been a key trouble shooter in the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and played a lead role during an earlier round of peace talks which failed in June 1990 leading to more blood-letting.

There had been speculation about a possible resumption of direct negotiations since Tilakar's renewed call last month for a ceasefire and Hameed's European visit that followed.

The LTTE is leading a 20-year-old guerrilla campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast. Thousands have died in bitter fighting while political efforts to resolve the crisis have ended in failure.